



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Egypt

Authorities Arrest Iraqi 'Intelligence Officer'

NC2803095691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0853 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has disclosed that the Egyptian authorities arrested an Iraqi intelligence officer with the rank of a captain on his arrival at Cairo airport on 20 March. The Iraqi officer, whose real name is 'Abbas 'Abbuz Mul, posed as an Egyptian citizen and tried to enter Egypt among a group of Egyptians. He was found to be an Iraqi citizen working as a captain in the Iraqi intelligence service. He arrived in Egypt on the orders of the Iraqi President to join a terrorist group to assassinate officials, including the interior minister, and to blow up a number of vital installations.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, the interior minister said that the Egyptian authorities had arrested six terrorists who were receiving their instructions from Baghdad to carry out terrorist operations in Egypt. They also arrested 74 members of the Egyptian Ba'ath Party.

The interior minister said that Iraqi regime's attempt to recruit Egyptians to carry out terrorist operations in Egypt had failed. The Iraqi Government detained the wives and children of these Egyptians as hostages, threatening to kill them if these Egyptians fail to carry out their missions.

The interior minister added that the Egyptian Government has a list of the names of these families, which it will submit to the International Committee of the Red Cross through the Foreign Ministry and international organizations with the aim of repatriating them to Egypt.

Government Worried About Nationals in Kuwait

NC2803015391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] The Egyptian Government has asked its ambassador in Kuwait to follow up the conditions of Egyptians in Kuwait and to ask the Kuwaiti Government to provide a clear explanation for the circulating reports on the killing and torture of Egyptians in Kuwait. The sources said that the Egyptian Government expressed extreme concern over these conditions.

An Egyptian human rights organization earlier appealed to the Egyptian Government and various international organizations to firmly intervene to put an end to the suffering of the Egyptians and other Arab communities in Kuwait. In a statement, the organization said that it has received information to this effect through the investigation by its representative into the status of Egyptians and other Arab communities in Kuwait and

southern Iraq. The organization said that information has also been received from Egyptian journalists who recently returned from Kuwait. The organization asserted that at least five Egyptians were tortured to death in Kuwaiti police stations after the liberation of Kuwait, and that they were buried at al-Riqqah cemeteries. Traces of torture have been found on their bodies. The organization quoted eyewitnesses as saying that at least 300 Egyptians were held and tortured in Kuwaiti police stations on the basis of unverified slanders.

The organization also affirmed that scores of Egyptians have been subjected to ugly massacres in southern Iraq. It said that fleeing Egyptians saw the mass graves of Egyptians killed near the city of al-Basrah. The organization, however, said the eyewitnesses cannot specify the perpetrator—whether the Iraqi Government or the Shiite opposition. The organization said that the Egyptians are the victims of a horrendous campaign of hatred by the opposition Shiite majority on the pretext that Egyptians backed the ruling regime in Iraq.

Syria's Al-Shar' Interviewed on Regional Security

NC2803092391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has warned Israel about its measures to intensify Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories and its refusal to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

In an exclusive statement published by the Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR today, al-Shar' said that Israel will be the loser in the long run if it sticks to its intransigent and extreme positions. He added that Israel must seize the existing peace opportunities, particularly in view of the positive Arab position toward peace.

Al-Shar' said that peace cannot be achieved without Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. Otherwise, he said, Israel would be seeking a confrontation with all the Arabs and all the Muslims. He noted that Israel possesses many more missiles than Syria.

On the new security arrangement, al-Shar' said that the Damascus Declaration on cooperation with the Gulf countries and Egypt represents general principles and the details will be discussed at future meetings.

On events in Iraq, he said: Our information proves that Iran is not considering the partitioning of Iraq. It supports Iraqi territorial integrity and looks on the Iraqi people as a Muslim people.

AL-AHRAM To Publish Maharak Interview

NC2803102891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0842 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reported today that it will publish, as of tomorrow, Friday, and

over two days, the two parts of a very important interview with President Husni Mubarak by chief editor Ibrahim Nafi'.

The paper says that President Mubarak will disclose in the first part of the interview astounding facts that are being revealed for the first time about unknown circumstances surrounding the Gulf crisis from the beginning. Saddam Husayn's ideas for an Iraqi empire, and the Ba'thist cells that he tried to form in Egypt when relations between the two countries were at their best.

The interview also deals with the positions adopted by Arab countries on the Gulf crisis, the peace efforts, the preparations for an international conference, the new Arab order, and what can be done to establish an Arab security arrangement.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Gulf War, U.S., USSR

LD2803110991 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by unidentified reporter on 26 March; place not given; interview originally carried live by Italian Television Channel 1 "on its weekly program (PJ 7)"; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What was your country's reaction to the Gulf war?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Our country constitutes a part of the Arab nation and the world which was annoyed by this war, or rather, was annoyed by the entry of the Iraqi forces into Kuwait and its annexation by force and against the wish of its people. This is rejected in relation to us. Then we saw the exploitation of this issue and the West's occupation of the Gulf region by declaring Bahrain a naval base for U.S. forces and the transfer of the headquarters of U.S. forces, and the transfer of the Rapid Deployment Forces from the United States to Bahrain.

Bahrain has lost its independence like Palestine lost its independence in 1948, and like Iraq lost its independence in this war. It has become clear that the talk about the operation being temporary and the expulsion of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and their return to their country—a task approved by the UN through the Security Council—is a lie, and that this has been a colonialist military campaign in the Arab homeland.

Regrettably, however, Arab-Western relations will be affected from now on, and there will be no stability in this region, and the rulers who have accepted the presence of military bases will regret it. How can we say that the entry of the Iraqi forces into Kuwait is occupation? If it is inevitable for this region to be occupied militarily, it is preferable for it to be occupied by Arab forces. This step will create acts of violence in the future against the

foreign presence. This is a very grave step and it should be revoked immediately. The Arab nation cannot accept Bahrain becoming a U.S. colony.

[Reporter] What can the Arab countries do?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The decision now, in the era of the masses, is not in the hands of rulers; the decision is in the hands of people in the streets and of the anonymous [al-majhulin]. The Bahraini street will resist and the masses of the Arab nation will resist. The Arab street will reject this new occupation. Today is a black day, a day for mourning, an inauspicious day. The day in which an independent Arab country has become a colony: Bahrain. It is the right of the Arab nation to issue a warning to the rulers of Bahrain, to revoke this grave step. We supported the international alliance, we supported UN Security Council resolutions and we supported the UN on the issue of the recovery of Kuwait and the driving out of the Iraqi forces after they had refused to withdraw. How can we accept Bahrain being occupied by Western military forces?

[Reporter] Why have you remained neutral during the war?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are against the occupation of Kuwait. Consequently, we support restoring Kuwait to its own people.

[Reporter] Why have you not condemned Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We were against him and we gave him repeated advice up to the last moment to withdraw from Kuwait. We told him: We do not agree with making a people to join you by force. As for us, fighting alongside foreign forces is not worthy of us. If foreign forces had not entered and Arab forces were formed, Libya would have been among them so that Kuwait would have been returned by Arab or Islamic means. As for seeking the help of Atlantic forces, the Libyan soldier refuses to fight alongside the Western forces no matter how sacred this issue is.

[Reporter] How can Saddam Husayn stay in power after what happened?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This depends on the Iraqi people. These are domestic matters, and no one can predict them precisely. The Iraqi people are the ones who can decide their destiny. As we see and hear, the Iraqi people seized the initiative. They are deciding their destiny, be it with Saddam Husayn or without him. This is the age of the masses and the masses can decide their own future. This is predicted in the Green Book. The masses are deciding their own future. Even in Bahrain, the masses are the ones who are deciding the destiny of Bahrain and not the Shaykh of Bahrain.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, the leader, Yasir 'Arafat used to say: My Brother Saddam Husayn. Has he not made the wrong choice of brothers?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yasir 'Arafat was drowning and was clinging to any hope, he thought that Iraq would participate in the liberation of Palestine and it was his right in

this case to ally himself with him, with Iraq. He cannot be blamed for this. He is a man who lost his land and people and he wants to search for a solution and for the road of return to his land.

[Reporter] Has the time not come to recognize Israel and reach agreement with it?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Does it not matter that they recognize Israel because it occupied Palestine or is it that Bahrain today has been turned into a U.S. base so that it raises the moral spirit of the Israelis and destroys the moral spirit of the Palestinians and it consolidates occupation? There is no such thing as recognition of Israel. This is Palestine. The last thing that the Palestinian people must do is to return and they should hold elections with the Jews under the UN supervision and a democratic state which combines the Palestinians and the Jews under the name of Palestine should emerge. As for that which is called Israel, it must disappear. The minimum we can accept is like what is happening in South-Africa.

[Reporter] What are your relations with the United States—the United States under the leadership of Bush?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Relations are severed and we do not need the United States. If the United States wants to restore relations, they are welcome on the condition that these relations are between equals and through mutual respect and mutual benefits and non-interference in the affairs of others and non-encroachment. We welcome relations which are dominated by these principles whether with the United States or with others.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about the Soviet Union under the leadership of Gorbachev?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Soviet Union is today passing through basic transformations which the Green Book predicted more than 15 years ago—that is, the nationalities will triumph and the masses will triumph. It is passing through a case of popular revolution. We regard what is happening in the Soviet Union as positive and in all events the Soviet Union will remain strong and one of the poles. The Soviet Union remains a military force which is stronger than the United States and it will overcome its economic (problem) and it has great

potentials and the United States is the one that will be exhausted if it fights the world—it will be defeated—and if it helps the world, it will be exhausted.

[Reporter] With regard to 1986, that is before the U.S. attack—has anything changed in Libyan life since that time?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] With regard to the principles, no, they did not change and the objective did not and will not change. From that time until now we have learned useful lessons. We now understand right and wrong and we do not hesitate. We have courage which enables us to change the political methods but we will not change our aims and we will not deviate from our principles at all.

[Reporter] Thank you and goodbye.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thank you. Thank you.

Message Honors Death Anniversary of Mohammed V

LD2703194491 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi' [March] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great al-Fatih of September Revolution, sent a cable to King Hassan II on the anniversary of the death of his father King Mohammed V which reads as follows:

His Majesty King Hassan II, Rabat. Today the anniversary of the death of your father King Mohammed V, Allah's mercy be upon him, passes. It is an occasion that calls upon us to stop at it and remember that period which was full of struggle and fight led by the departed king your father with all courage, awareness and wisdom the fruit of which was the independence of sisterly Morocco.

As I send you my regards on this occasion, I am fully certain that what your father, Allah's mercy be upon him, achieved had been preserved thanks to your good efforts in building the structure of your sisterly country and contributing in the building of the Arab Maghreb Union. May Allah guide you and guide the steps of all towards every good for our glorious Arab nation.

Bahrain**General Schwarzkopf Arrives in Manama 27 Mar****On Regional Tour**

NC2703145191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Mar (WAKH)—General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Forces in the Gulf region, arrived in Manama from Muscat this afternoon on a two-day visit within the framework of his tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. [passage omitted]

Meets Defense Force Commander

NC2703205891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2000 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 27 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander of Bahrain's Defense Force, this evening received General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Gulf, and his delegation now visiting Bahrain.

The heir apparent applauded the brilliance of the air-land operation to liberate Kuwait and reinstitute its legitimate government. His highness said he was proud of the part these forces played in defeating aggression and championing international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hamad noted that the rallying of the international community behind the cause of liberating Kuwait reflects a worldwide rejection of occupation and aggression and support for a negotiated resolution of problems based on international law.

WAKH has learned that the two discussed Gulf developments against the background of the liberation of Kuwait, in addition to areas of cooperation between Bahrain and the United States. Brigadier Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, deputy commander of the Bahrain Defense Force, attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Kuwait**Interior Ministry Assumes Security Duties**

LD2703215691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 2037 GMT 27 Mar 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Text] The Kuwait Interior Ministry has begun to assume its duties of maintaining security in Kuwait instead of the Army. Today's SAWT AL-KUWAYT newspaper reported that the police force is currently running patrols in residential areas and supervising the state of security in them. These measures come in the framework of steps taken by the Kuwaiti Government to restore life to its normal state, to

remove the effects of the treacherous Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and to allow the revitalization of the public and private sector services.

Announces Reentry Policy

LD2703221491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 2037 GMT 27 Mar 91

[From the "Kuwait Message" program]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The following is an announcement by the Ministry of Interior of the State of Kuwait:

The Ministry of Interior of the State of Kuwait offers its sincere congratulations to the honorable Kuwaiti people on the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan. May God grant us its return in prosperity and blessings. The ministry has the pleasure of announcing to the honorable citizens its determination to distribute entry permits into Kuwait in the near future to heads of families, and it is hoping for full cooperation from citizens in realizing this in the public interest. It will announce the details on this matter at the earliest opportunity through visual, printed, and audio media organs so that the honorable citizens will be able to learn about and follow up their family affairs. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister Describes Demographic Changes

LD2703114191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti Minister of Planning Sulayman al-Mutaww'a has stated that the devastation and squandering of Kuwait's wealth will impede the early restoration of economic and social activities to their past rates. For this reason, priority of return in this stage will be given to those involved in essential and basic services, he added. He said that this matter will be defined within the next few weeks to ascertain the need for workers in these services so that they may be brought back to their posts irrespective of whether they were Kuwaitis or residents.

In his statement, which he made to the Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR today, Minister al-Mutaww'a said that all the wages of non-Kuwaitis employed by the state will be paid in full to them and that the Kuwaiti Government does not plan to cancel the contracts of all the workers, but only of those whose work is no longer needed in Kuwait. He added that the help of Egyptian planning specialists will be sought to help Kuwait in rebuilding the country, particularly as the Egyptians have great experience in this field.

Minister al-Mutaww'a affirmed that the Kuwaiti Government plans to review all laws and legislation with the aim of correcting the demographic structure of the population, as, he said, it is illogical that the Kuwaitis should continue to form only 28 percent of the population of their own country. He added that it is also planned to involve Kuwaiti women in rebuilding their

country, and the private sector will also play an important role in the restoration of Kuwait to what it was before.

He said that the structure of the new Kuwaiti plan is based on giving Kuwaitis the opportunity to participate with their full capacity in rebuilding their country and working in all types of jobs, particularly key posts on all levels.

He reiterated that all Kuwaiti civil documents were authenticated and preserved and were saved from the hands of the Iraqis and smuggled out. Copies of them were handed to the United Nations to prevent the entry into Kuwait of any outside elements. Minister al-Mutaw'a said that Kuwait owes much to Egypt and its people, who embraced the people of Kuwait during the crisis and fought on their side and sacrificed the blood of their sons in the land of Kuwait.

679 Kuwaiti Officers Return Home 28 Mar

LD2803110291 London KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Mar—679 Kuwait officers returned home this morning. They were released by the Iraqi authorities last night. They were welcomed at Kuwait International Airport by Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah; Defense Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad; Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, deputy chief of staff; and a number of responsible officials from the two ministries and the committee on war victims.

This is the first batch of Kuwaiti officers released by the Iraqi authorities. KUNA learned that the fate of a number of military and civilian POWs is unknown and the Kuwaiti authorities will be asking for them.

PLO 'Insolently' Requests Embassy in Kuwait

PM2703121991 London SAWT AL-KUWAIT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 Mar 91 p 3

[Hamad al-Su'aydan article: "What's the Hurry?"]

[Text] The PLO has submitted to the Kuwaiti Government an urgent request for the opening of its embassy in Kuwait. What's the hurry? Haste, as the saying goes, is a characteristic of the devil.

What's the hurry? Does the PLO leadership want to create anarchy, undermine security, and foment sedition now that security and stability have returned to Kuwait?

The PLO makes such a request most insolently, as if nothing has happened. It undermined Kuwait's cause and tried in vain to foil the liberation of Kuwait. It squandered its funds and gave them generously to Saddam Husayn so that he could consolidate the occupation, abort the UN resolutions, and continue to plot against Kuwait's independence. It said that Kuwait

should be placed under Iraqi administration, like Monaco's position vis-a-vis France. Monaco's area is two square km, less than the area of Qaruh Island. How could Kuwait, an area of about 20,000 square km, be like Monaco, which is no bigger than al-Safa square in the capital city of Kuwait? That Palestinian proposal was offered as a "solution" to the Kuwaiti problem and made as an initiative. The Palestinian view was that the Kuwaiti entity should be forgotten and its mention prohibited. Having played its part on the question of Kuwait and excited the streets and markets with demonstrations of joy and happiness at the occupation of Kuwait and of protests against those who came to liberate it, accusing them of interference and of conspiracy against the Palestinian cause and Arab unity, the PLO is now requesting the opening of its so-called embassy in Kuwait. Embassies are usually opened for the purpose of strengthening relations between countries not of plotting against the host country. Furthermore, no state should have an embassy unless it is a fully independent state.

It would be strange to have an embassy that does not operate as a respectable embassy and does not abide by political rules and diplomatic traditions. What use would a Palestinian embassy be when the Palestinian leader does not pay much attention to kings and presidents and insists on traveling in his aircraft every day from one country to another, meeting with these leaders without any due regard for their embassies abroad and without using his embassies in the Arab countries to convey Palestinian views through diplomatic channels and through official correspondence? What is the use of the PLO leader's meetings if he communicates every dialogue he holds with the Arab leaders to Saddam Husayn and if he causes sedition, does not keep secrets, and does not respect the sanctity of relations, secrets, and the trust which we had—in the past—given to Yasir 'Arafat?

Furthermore, why does the PLO insist on opening offices and embassies simultaneously in all the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states when one PLO office in one GCC state is enough for all the GCC states? What's the hurry in opening a Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait at this particular time? Is it for the purpose of smuggling stolen Kuwaiti currency via agents and simpletons? Is it for the purpose of resisting and interfering with the expected Kuwaiti laws on residence, immigration, and work? Or is it for the purpose of interfering in the forthcoming elections as it secretly did in the past, when it urged deputies to promulgate or abolish laws and to bring down ministers who displeased Iraq? Did the PLO think that we did not know what its organs and agents were doing in Kuwait? Did it misconstrue Kuwaiti tolerance as foolishness and stupidity?

Does the PLO want to control the Kuwaiti media once again by having its agents infiltrate the press, the news agency, and the radio newsdesk? They were the ones who

led the enemy to the Kuwaiti transmitters and dismantled the news agency equipment and Kuwaiti press printing presses and took them to Baghdad, and much more than that.

Now the PLO wants to open an embassy in Kuwait. That is the same PLO which did not conceal its regret at the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait. Yasir 'Arafat told AL-AHRAM (in its 19 March edition) that "If Saddam wanted to prolong the war, he could have left two armored brigades in Kuwait to launch guerrilla operations." That is what Yasir 'Arafat hoped would happen to Kuwait after liberation, and now he wants an embassy to lead the guerrilla warfare he sought.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Receives Schwarzkopf in Muscat

NC2703143291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Muscat, 26 Mar [date as received] (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received this evening General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Gulf region, and the delegation accompanying him who are currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Khamis Bin-Hamid al-Kalbani, chief of staff of the Sultanate's Armed Forces, and the U.S. ambassador accredited to the Sultanate.

Qatar

Somali Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

NC2703154791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 27 Mar (WAKH)—Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh arrived in Doha today on an official four-day visit to Qatar. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the Somali prime minister will hold talks with senior Qatari officials on the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Received by Amir

NC2803120291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 28 Mar (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received here today Omar Arteh Ghalib, prime minister of the Somali Provisional Government, who is currently visiting Doha.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the Qatari amir learned at the meeting about the situation and political developments in Somalia in the aftermath of the recent bloody events and civil war in that country, and

about the efforts being made to restore normal life, establish security and stability, and to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia.

The talks also dealt with the current Arab situation after the Gulf crisis and the Kuwait-liberation war, as well as with ways to promote bilateral ties. Ghalib congratulated Shaykh Khalifah on the profound victory in the war to liberate Kuwait, defend right and legitimacy, and protect the homeland, in which the Qatari armed forces participated heroically and valiantly.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Reviews Regional Ties

PM2803093691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Yasir Hawwari report: "Prince Sultan Says in Important Statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Islamic Groups Exploited Religion and Supported Injustice"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general—has said that Saudi Arabia had proffered a supporting hand to some Islamic groups to spread the teachings of the true religion, but that they exploited the religion for political objectives, employed falsehood, supported injustice, and resorted to incriminations. He referred to the Arab Gulf states' supplies to Iraq and its Army and to how Saddam Husayn responded to that position, rejecting charters and treaties.

Prince Sultan spoke in his council office, answering citizens' questions. Our correspondent, Yasir al-Hawwari, sent AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the following report:

This is not a press interview. It was not conducted at a private meeting, but was a frank discussion between an official and citizens at an open meeting. In it I sensed facts and information that were stated in isolation from diplomatic considerations. In fact they came directly and very frankly from the heart. [passage omitted]

Answering citizens' questions, Prince Sultan said: Saddam Husayn lives in total isolation. He seems unaware of what is happening in the international community or what is happening in his country.

He should have faced the harsh reality and the bitter predicament into which he has driven Iraq and the Iraqi people and stepped down, like any responsible leader who has suffered a crushing defeat. But instead, we saw him making threats to the Iraqi people, promising to destroy anyone who thinks about removing the regime. What has happened and is happening cannot be comprehended by reason or logic. What pains us most is to see the Iraqi people—that Arab, Muslim people—still suffering from the results of their leadership's crimes and straying from truth.

He added: Saddam Husayn's threats also included his neighbor, Iran. He warned it not to help or support the rebel movement opposed to his regime, reminding it of what he had offered it...

So what did Saddam Husayn offer Iran except destruction and ruin over the war years...? If Saddam Husayn's memory is so good, how could he forget what Kuwait offered him? And how did respond to its favors by invading its territory and making its citizens homeless? [passage omitted]

Some members of the audience asked: Did the Gulf states sense Saddam Husayn's intention to commit an aggression before the invasion of Kuwait took place? Prince Sultan said: Some months earlier Saddam Husayn signed a nonaggression agreement between Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. That was at his request. He did the same with Arab Gulf states.

Committees were continuing their coordination meetings to build bridges of cooperation when Saddam Husayn surprised us with his threats and then the Iraqi Army's invasion of Kuwait. The painful thing is that Arab states, and especially the Gulf states, supplied the Iraqi Army with equipment and experts in the hope that it would provide a protective shield for Arab security and effective backing in the liberation of Palestine, but the Saddam Husayn regime turned it into a tool for ruin and destruction in the region.

It is amazing to see that those who rushed to support Saddam Husayn and his invasion of Kuwait and his threat to the region's security are the same people who are vying to brandish the slogans of liberation.

What have they offered... what else has Iraq offered for the liberation of Palestine except slogans? Iraq has not fired a single bullet for the sake of Palestine. Nor did it participate effectively in any of the wars witnessed on the Palestinian scene, either under Saddam Husayn or previously.

Saddam Husayn's Iraq has offered no significant help to Palestine or other Arab states, although Iraq is rich in oil, agriculture, water, and industries. All that the Saddam Husayn regime rushed to provide is bribes to extremist groups, corrupt regimes, mercenary media services, and destructive terrorist movements. Consequently, all that was against the Palestinian cause.

What will be Saudi Arabia's position toward the Palestinian cause and the PLO? Perhaps Prince Sultan read that question in the audience' minds, as he went on, in a firm and decisive tone: The cause of Palestine and of the Palestinian people and, first and foremost, the issue of holy Jerusalem, have been, and will remain, the foremost priority in Saudi policy. The Kingdom's position on this is steadfast and clear.

What is the future of Saudi Arabia and Yemen? I asked. A Saudi security official had told me that a Yemeni security official visited him recently to discuss the cool

relations between the two countries. The Saudi official asked him: Do you want us to talk as officials or to talk openly like friends? The Yemeni replied: as friends, of course. So the Saudi official told him: You know, as I do, that Yemen's only land outlet is via the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. You are well aware that the Kingdom opened its doors to the Yemeni brothers and gave them special treatment not granted to any other nationals from the other fraternal Arab and Islamic countries. Besides, Yemenis working in Saudi Arabia transfer to Yemen some 5 billion riyals a year. And the Kingdom has participated, and still participates, in the reconstruction process in Yemen and in various fields. So why do we do all that?

Does the Kingdom fear Yemen? As you are well aware, the Kingdom has sufficient military and security capabilities and material resources to protect its borders and territory. Has the Kingdom any ambitions in Yemen? Or does it wish to be a neighbor to a fraternal state in order to work together to maintain joint cooperation for the sake of development, prosperity, and stability?

I addressed my question to Prince Sultan, who replied: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sees the Yemeni people as a brotherly people. Even if 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has adopted that strange position on the invasion of Kuwait, it does not represent the opinion of the majority of the Yemeni people.

If we feel bitter about 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's position, it is because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia helped to lead 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the presidency. This, despite the Yemeni friends' opposition. Our motive was our desire to spare Yemen the risk of falling into the whirlpool of bloody internal conflicts.

Prince Sultan spoke about the leaderships of some of the Islamic groups distributed in the Arab countries, especially the Arab Maghreb states, including Abassi Madani, Rachid Ghanouchi, and Hasan al-Turabi. He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proffered a supporting hand to them on a religious basis to spread the teachings of the true religion and teach the masses Islamic culture. But they wore the cloak of religion in order to exploit the religion for the sake of political objectives. He said: It saddens us to see that people like Madani, Ghanouchi, and Al-Turabi have ignored the realities and employed falsehood and then supported the aggression, backed the oppressor, and incriminated and insulted us through demonstrations and press campaigns, rejecting all Islam's principles, values, and ethics.

We in the Kingdom are satisfied that all we did for them and for others was for Almighty God's sake. And it is they alone who should face their consciences to judge themselves for what they have done. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Arab journalist and chief editor of the Paris-based magazine, ARABIYYAT.

Editor Comments on Resumption of Ties With Iran

PM2703163691 Jeddah UKAZ in Arabic
21 Mar 91 p 3

[Article by the political editor: "Restoration of Saudi-Iranian Relations: Why Now?"]

[Text] The decision to restore the Kingdom's relations with Iran is an important event in the course of the region's developments. It reflects a new chapter and a new atmosphere between the two countries and in the region. The timing, the parties concerned, and the circumstances which led to the decision add to its importance.

The decision came after a violent political earthquake hit the region with tremendous force, gravely affecting all states and peoples of the region and providing lessons and producing results which should be carefully examined and correlated.

It came in special circumstances and at a critical stage in the region, necessitating every possible constructive effort by all states and peoples in the region to lay the foundations for a durable peace, stability, and cooperation for the sake of prosperity for all. This is because it is now clear to everyone that the method of force, violence, and threats is obsolete and that long years of war in the region have led only to a return to the normal conditions and to everything that existed before the years of destruction, disturbances, instability, and waste of resources and capabilities on futile adventures. This destroys forever all illegitimate ambitions or aggressive expansionist policies.

The restoration of relations is of special added importance because of the position of the two states in the region and the world and their influence on the political and economic course of the region. That places on their shoulders the responsibility of a necessary positive contribution, in cooperation with the other parties, to preserving stability in the region and a commitment to the principles of mutual respect and fulfillment of all duties and rights that will guarantee the position and freedom of all peoples of the region without interference in others' affairs from any side.

Last, the decision also derives its great importance from the fact that it epitomizes a new era of ties in the region, not only between Iran and the Kingdom, but also between Iran and all the other Arab Gulf states and perhaps the rest of the Arab states. It also represents a new Iranian policy more positive to the world as a whole—and that is a significant international necessity and requirement.

But why have Saudi-Iranian relations been restored at this particular time, and how is it connected to the Gulf crisis?

Although the crisis does not constitute the basis, or the determining principles, of the Kingdom's ties with other states, it nevertheless did have effects and consequences and

has highlighted certain attitudes and tendencies which certainly figured in the main political factors that led to or encouraged and paved the way for that decision. These effects, attitudes, and factors include the following:

1. The Iranian attitude toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its consequences, leading to the war for Kuwait's liberation by force of arms. It was natural for Iran to oppose the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait from the beginning, but that decision was not itself a strong and sufficient indication of Iran's desire to respect the rights of the region's states and people and to preserve security and stability. The hostility to Iraq after eight years of war provided the acceptable and likely explanation of that attitude. The Iraqi thinking and behavior in the next phase of the crisis was a clear test of the Iranian leadership's goodwill. Iraq made major territorial concessions (by returning to the 1975 agreement) and political concessions by resolving all the problems still pending. By making these major concessions and retreats, the Iraqi regime hoped to achieve the following:

A—To secure Iraq's border with Iran to permit the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from the border to maintain the occupation of Kuwait.

B—To try to secure Iranian support for the Iraqi regime in facing the international sanctions and boycott and in tackling the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

Iran fulfilled the first Iraqi objective. That was natural and stemmed from Iran's desire not to get involved in another war. Despite all the Iraqi regime's political and economic enticements to Iran and despite that regime's repeated offers and attempts to involve Iran on its side, however, the Iranian leadership decided to adopt a neutral stance in the crisis. There was no record of any tangible Iranian violation of the UN sanctions and no Iranian military activity on Iraq's side. When the most dangerous and most important Iraqi Air Force planes escaped to Iran, it immediately decided not to return them or use them until after the war.

The Iranian position was, therefore, a good one of commitment to international law and was appreciated by all the states of the region.

The restoration of relations was neither a return of a favor nor a reward for the Iranian position during the crisis. More accurately, the Iranian stance was a clear indication that the Iranian Government was pursuing a new positive policy on security and stability in the region; respect for the rights, sovereignty, and independence of other states; and commitment to international law and to UN resolutions. That indication was vital and necessary for the restoration of relations and normal cooperation between Iran and the region's states after years of differences on that score.

2. The repeatedly expressed Iranian interest in improving relations with the Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, as stated by the

Iranian president and senior officials and backed up by practical stands at the United Nations and elsewhere.

3 The fact that power in Iran has tended to shift to moderate and sensible leaders. The role of some whose hasty propagandist attitude frequently undermined Iran's ties and policies in the region and the world has receded.

It has now become possible to deal with Iran under President Rafsanjani, with power in the hands of a practical Iranian leadership which has confirmed its awareness of and respect for the region's security and safety and for the rights of other nations.

4. The destruction of Iraq's aggressive intentions and the creation of a new balance in the region has convinced all parties in the region that only an atmosphere of peace, stability, and cooperation can benefit all and that military force or the threat of military force can achieve no objectives at the expense of other peoples and states in the region.

5. The termination of the territorial aspects of the Iraq-Iran conflict and the Iraqi regime's aggression against Kuwait and the Gulf states eliminated one of the most difficult problems which stood in the way of relations, insofar as the effects of the eight-year Iraq-Iran war have been eliminated.

6. The fact that the war ended the way it did means that the future of the region and the future and unity of Iraq itself require the cooperation of all parties to contain all possible consequences and to prevent anarchy in Iraq or developments that could pose a threat to the entire region.

To sum it all up, it can be said that the Iranian policy has provided all that is necessary to restore confidence in dealing with Iran on the basis of mutual respect, and it has confirmed Iran's intention to enhance cooperation for the sake of the independence, security, and prosperity of the region's peoples. Because these have always been the Kingdom's objectives and because the Kingdom is always willing to offer its hand for the sake of cooperation, fraternity, goodneighborliness, and constructive ties with all states and peoples, it was natural that it immediately appreciated and encouraged that trend. That was always the response to every positive Iranian stance, and there were numerous signs—including the Doha summit statement about the GCC's interest in cooperation with Iran for the prosperity and stability of the region on the basis of relations of good-neighborliness and mutual respect. Later, on 13 Safar 1991 [as published] Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati in Geneva, where they discussed bilateral relations. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, reaffirmed the Kingdom's position on relations with Iran emphasizing the Kingdom's geographical and fraternal links with Iran and interest in relations with it on the basis of mutual respect and equality in sovereignty, rights, and duties.

The Kingdom views this matter on the basis that existence of diplomatic relations and constructive cooperation between states is the norm and that the severance or suspension of such relations is the exception. If relations between the Kingdom and Iran had been severed or suspended for various reasons, it is only natural that, with the disappearance of these reasons and the willingness of the other side to respond to the just, legitimate, and good policies of the Kingdom, these relations and this cooperation should be resumed.

The existence of diplomatic relations means the existence of normal relations between states. The resumption of these relations between the Kingdom and Iran means a return to normal conditions between two neighboring Muslim states.

But apart from that simplified description, the decision could mean a new chapter between the two countries that would overcome the past period of almost 10 years that witnessed developments inappropriate to such important relations and several disputes between the two countries. If the convulsive political developments in Iran, the Iraq-Iran war, and the attitude of some Iranian pilgrims were the main features of that period, the sensible attitude of the current Iranian Government, as demonstrated during the recent crisis, heralds a new era of cooperation among all states of the region on both sides of the Gulf so that the worst times of anxiety and instability in the history of the Gulf may give way to tranquillity and prosperity for all.

The Kingdom, the GCC states, and Egypt and Syria have all emphasized the importance of establishing positive effective ties with Iran, as officially declared at the Doha summit and in the Riyadh statement by the eight states. The coming days and months will be the judge of these broad hopes and will show how far they are fulfilled. Everyone is confident of success, God willing, because the recent crisis provided many lessons, and the eight-year war proved that peace and stability are precious objectives warranting the abandonment of all the slogans and temptations proven to be futile—objectives necessary for the fulfillment of the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the region.

Press Comments on Iraqi, Israeli Issues

LD2703172991 Riyadh SPA in English 1245 GMT
27 Mar 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Riyadh, March 27, SPA—The Saudi newspapers commented today editorially on a number of issues.

Al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM deploring the irrational policy of Saddam Husayn of Iraq said as he goes deeper and deeper into hiding surrounded by his battle-worn Republican guards, the Iraqi dictator is still giving out military orders to his defeated Republican Guards with sickening nonchalance as though he were still "monarch of all he surveys" with "right that none can dispute."

And so the Iraqi tyrant goes on in his heavily guarded underground bunker—a dejected, degraded specimen of derisive pseudo military braggadocio that has brought untold ridicule, shame and sorrow upon Iraq's heavily downtrodden people, added AL-YAWM.

Moreover, notwithstanding his humiliating defeats on all sides, the Iraqi tyrant continues to issue his pathetic challenges and warnings to the international community although he continues to flout the provisions of the temporary ceasefire agreement which he signed with the allied forces recently. Indeed, impartial observers have irrefutable evidence that Saddam's present acts are absolutely counter to logic and plain common sense - hence the oft repeated question is: "Why, oh why does he do so?"

Commenting on the developments of the situation in the Middle East, RIYADH DAILY said any move towards peace depends on Israel. Though the Baker plan has received the full backing of influential Arab governments, Premier Shamir has remained adamant about trading any land for peace. With every passing day he is only becoming more and more bellicose. Proof of his intransigence is Israel's continuing policy of settling Soviet Jews on occupied Palestinian lands. All Arabs unequivocally condemn this policy. And Saudi Arabia is the forefront of those believing that the occupied territories belong to the Palestinians and its legality should not be tampered with in any manner by any Israeli Government.

Yemen

Salih Receives Sudanese Envoy, Al-Bashir Message

EA2703225191 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2230 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, yesterday

received in his office brother 'Abdallah Muhammad, minister of culture and information in the Republic of Sudan, who conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, concerning the development of the situation in the region and an exchange of viewpoints about issues concerning the future of our Arab nation, in addition to bilateral relations and ways of reinforcing and expanding spheres of joint cooperation between the two brotherly countries. The brother chairman entrusted him with conveying a reply message to his brother, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

Council Receives Chinese, Soviet Messages

EA2703223591 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2230 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Council, in the presence of Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the foreign minister.

At the meeting a number of issues were discussed at the national and pan-Arab levels. The Council studied reports submitted by the Council's specialized advisory committees to the Presidential Council, which issued appropriate directives on them. The Council also studied a number of messages addressed to the brother chairman and the Presidential Council. Among them is a message from the Chinese leadership and a message from the Soviet leadership concerning current developments in the region and the efforts to establish peace.

The Council also studied measures being undertaken by the government to implement the Council's directives and decisions issued at its previous meeting on dealing with the economic situation.

INA Reports Saddam Swearing-In Remarks

NC2703195091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that if a minister of the Iraqi state remembers his oath and works according to it, I think he will be fulfilling a major duty toward his people and the homeland. God grants success. During the swearing-in of the vice president, the prime minister, the two deputy prime ministers, and the ministers who took the constitutional oath, President Saddam Husayn said that there was a kind of overlap between the professional association and the state; between the party and the state apparatus; between this or that influence and the state apparatus. But from now on, each thing must be given its proper name, and each situation must work according to its own characteristics. Everybody [must be treated] according to the Constitution and law. Colors should not get mixed up in a way that would cause negligence of responsibility, where the party neglects its responsibility and the state neglects its responsibility.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn stressed that the most important thing that faced us after the U.S. aggression, or rather, that has been intertwined with the U.S. aggression, is this treason by certain people and this treachery by others from across the borders. This is also a lesson in life. We have great hopes, God willing, in the Iraqis, because they are the people whose history goes back 6,000 years and taught mankind a great deal. They are capable of learning and contributing a great deal in proportion to their deep civilization, and, most important in proportion to their faith in God and in what they believe.

The text of President Saddam Husayn's speech follows:

With the blessing of God, God willing, you will serve Iraq and the nation. I think that the lowest ranking [as received] post for one of the brothers who has assumed the post of a minister for the first time is the state finance minister. Previously, he assumed the post of director general in the Iraqi (?state). However, he worked as director general in more than one department and is well-informed about the state's conditions, at least in the economic field. Among you are governors, under secretaries, senior army commanders. Your other colleagues are ministers in the Iraqi state who are not holding the post of ministers for the first time. You all have clear insight into the state's course of action and the leadership's thinking. However, we will not discuss details at this meeting except for two basic points:

The first point is this oath you have taken. I believe—I am not well briefed on this point—that as far as I know, this reconstruction we want and that we are trying to achieve, I can say that Iraq is perhaps the only country in the world with such an oath with such a standard and meanings. [sentence as heard] Thus, if a minister bears in mind the substance of this oath and acts accordingly, I

think he will be doing a great duty to his people and homeland. God grants success.

The other point that I want to talk about in such a meeting is this: In the previous phase, there was some kind of overlap—overlap between the professional association and the state; between the party and the state apparatus; between this or that influence on one hand and the state apparatus on the other. From now on, each thing must be given its proper name, and each situation must work in accordance with its own characteristics. Everyone must be treated according to the Constitution and law.

The party works within the framework of its jurisdictions. If someone comes to you and tells you that the party wants this or that thing, tell him to go and discuss this at the party and remain inside the party. As for us, we will work according to the orders of the state apparatus. The party, through the state's leadership, can express the opinion it deems fit, but I am now a minister in the Iraqi state, taking orders from the head of state, followed by the prime minister and the deputy prime ministers when he charges them to convey something to the ministers or the Iraqi state. Apart from the above-mentioned, colors should not be mixed up in a way that would cause a negligence of responsibility, whereby the party neglects its responsibility and the state neglects its responsibility.

From now on, the police will be a policeman. He will enforce the law as a policeman, and will work only within the law. The judge will be a judge. As for the governor, he will serve as a district officer [as received] who will be asked to act as a governor in accordance with the powers granted to him, his duties, his responsibilities, and the oath he takes. He, and no one else, will be accountable to us when he fails to act correctly. Moreover, he, and no one else, will be honored by us when he performs his duties exceptionally, exceeding the normal and regular duties expected of him. As for the honor granted to him for performing his duties normally, it lies with the responsibilities entrusted to him and also in the salary the state pays him. This is the honor given for normal job performance. As for exceptional performance, exceeding normal performance, it has to be recognized, honored, and rewarded in an exceptional way.

The minister shall be a minister, just like a minister working in the French cabinet, a minister in the Soviet state, and a minister in Greece. This will take into account Iraq's special status, its national circumstances, and its pan-Arab depth as they are known, and the things that ensure respect for these special considerations. As for the status of the minister, he has the status that accompanies his title as a minister and his capacity as one. The same goes for deputy prime ministers, vice presidents, and the president of the republic, because the lesson learned from the previous phase is that interference in responsibilities and in daily duties weakened many positions.

The governor's position weakened and the minister's standing and influence weakened. So have the positions of the sub-district officer, the district officer, the judge, the police officer, and the army officer. After the number of army officers increased, their qualifications were not as good as they had been.

Now, positions derive their significance from their responsibilities. Everyone should perform his duties not as a favor, but on the basis of the duty he performs according to his responsibility. No one, from the head of state to the security, police, intelligence men, or syndicate members, is granting favors. Everyone should perform his duties according to how the law describes these duties. Any behavior in violation of the law is unacceptable. We should apply the law meticulously—as we draw a line with a ruler; anything outside the line will be cut off. This is so everyone will march along the charted path and not divert to another path. From now on, the march will be according to the chain of command. The top man is the top man, the second man is the second man, and the third man is the third man. Everyone should know his position.

These are the only two points I wanted to stress during this meeting. Other than these two points, you already know everything.

Regarding your duties in the coming period, or rather, a description of your duties in the upcoming period, I must tell you that it will be a difficult time. I also think that when we say difficult, you understand what is meant by this.

A year ago, you probably had financial resources that could be used to tackle the issues you are trying to resolve. In other words, a minister could cover his mistakes with financial resources. Or the Iraqi state was busy with other matters that could cover certain mistakes in the technical area. But now the minister's efficiency will be shown by the way he fulfills his duties under the new circumstances on the basis of the slogan: We work within what is available, and what is available [words indistinct] we think we cannot add to it. But we have to add to what is available both in terms of quantity and quality. We should add with our efforts.

The minister's ability will not be measured according to the number of hours he works. A minister may work 12, 14, or 16 hours a day but not achieve anything. Why? Because the minister is a leader in a certain situation. If he cannot move all of the resources at the same time in the right direction then all of these hours will be nothing but the work of one individual.

Therefore he worked not as a minister, but as a person within the ministry. What is required is that a minister work as a minister within the ministry; that is, his goal should be to operate and activate to the maximum the material, human, and moral potential and resources of his ministry so that he can offer new services in the development field, or in the foreign policy field, or for the others, each in his respective fields. This will become

clear. I estimate that four months, or at the most six months, are sufficient for a minister to show if he can do the job. We hope and are determined to support you as much as we can to help you perform your duties and to be completely successful.

In the past months and days many issues have surfaced that we have not yet discussed officially or on a large scale. We can discuss them. The most important thing that faced us after the U.S. aggression, or rather, that has been intertwined with the U.S. aggression, is this treason by certain people and this treachery by others from outside the borders. This is also a lesson in life. We are pained by it, but at the same time, it is a lesson in life. We deduced the second point that I discussed from these lessons. The first point is the swearing-in and the second one is that the ministries [al-Musammayat] perform their tasks without interfering in the responsibilities of others.

Almighty God appears to have wanted to test our faith and make us bear further burdens to see the extent to which we can bear these burdens. I would go even further by saying that the Almighty God, who is all-powerful, knows that we, as Iraqis and officials, have an unusual capacity for endurance. God willing, we will demonstrate a great deal of endurance and, from these burdens, we will learn lessons that will provide great motivation for building a high edifice that is lofty in its glory, and that is bright and prosperous.

The affliction has gone away and left us. What has remained are its effects. And what is required is to end its effects. As the poet says: You have to chop off the head after cutting its tail. God willing, the after effects will be brushed aside, along with the remnants of the thorns so that great Iraq may remain. I will continue to say great Iraq, referring in particular to the Iraqis. This is because Iraq is not great because of its land; it is great because of its people. I will continue to use the term great Iraq despite the thorns planted on the road that sometimes cause the hearts to bleed before the feet. We will, God willing, continue to have great faith in the Iraqis, because they are the people whose civilization dates back 6,000 years and who have taught mankind a great deal. They are capable of learning, of contributing a great deal, and of demonstrating patience that is in proportion to the richness of their civilization, and more important, to their faith in God and in the principles in which they believe.

As for ourselves, the oaths that you have taken are the basis and substance in which we have faith as the path to be taken by Iraq, and the criterion to be used when dealing with issues concerning Iraq and the nation, God willing.

Prime Minister Hammadi on 'New World Order'

NC2703234691 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
8 Mar 91 p 3

[Article by Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, formerly Iraqi deputy prime minister, entitled: "U.S. Tyranny Is The Real New World Order"]

[Text] There has been much talk lately about the new world order regarding the Kuwait issue. The following passage was part of a message from Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn dated 12 Jumada al-Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 30 November 1990:

"I am often seized by the feeling that the picture is not distinctly clear to you. Had the picture been clear as it should have been, then you would not have taken the stands you have adopted. Today's world is completely different from yesterday's world, whether with regard to the relationship between its main powers, or with regard to the principles which various countries—east and west, north and south—are looking toward establishing in order to govern relations among countries in the coming stage, and organize the change into a society that rejects the use of force to resolve conflicts and deepens the concepts of peace and stability at a time when humanity is planning for the 21st century and is facing challenges that differ qualitatively from those it faced throughout the recorded history of the human race."

There has recently been a spate of flowery expressions and verbose statements that claim to be scientific and knowledgeable about the new world order, its complexities, and its requirements, particularly among those who are fascinated by the West, who have intellectually capitulated to it, and who are subservient to it for reasons of interests and terrorism [as published]. This message was most certainly written by an aide with claims to science and knowledge. It was most probably written for Mubarak, and he liked it. He of course approved its contents, and signed it. Let us begin by discussing the views and rules about the new world order that were mentioned in the message.

To say that today's world is different from that of yesterday's is true. To say that this difference is caused by the changing relationship between the world's major powers is also true from a specific standpoint and within certain limits. The Soviet Union has made the decision to abandon its prevailing economic system and move toward what it has termed the market economy. It has decided to change its foreign policy of opposition to the United States to one of being in harmony with it. It has done all this under the pressure of its internal economic conditions by reducing spending on weapons. This part is understandable.

But the second part of the message—which concerns the principles which all countries, from East and West, North and South, are looking to establish in order to

govern relations among countries—is not understandable at all. What are these principles, and what indications are there that countries are looking toward them? What has happened in the North, South, East, and West in this regard?

The aspirations of poor and wronged people for justice, independence, and freedom is an inevitable matter, and existed prior to and after these developments. Contrary to what has been noted in the referent passage, this is nothing new. Regarding Europe, the Paris conference laid down the framework for the process of East Europe's accession to the West. All the major principles included in the documents produced by the conference favored the West and its policy. These documents stressed political liberalism in East European states. They also stressed economic liberalism; that is, Western capitalism. The conference stressed cooperation among European states. The meat of this issue is to expand Western investments in the economies of the eastern states in order to achieve joint and mutual benefits. The conference also practically heralded the end of the cold war between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The aim of all this is to reorganize the European Continent in accordance with the Western style, both politically and economically. That happened between West and East Europe in the interests of West Europe in the first place. This has not occurred between the West and East in the world, as that passage implies. Eastern and western nations form an entity much larger than that of East and West Europe. Nothing new has taken place in the eastern and the western countries in the world. Things are more or less the same: The unjust are still unjust; the wronged are still being wronged; the rich are still rich; and the poor are still poor. Referring to the world as north and south is meaningless, because nothing new has happened between north and south. During the long negotiations at the United Nations on what was called the need to achieve a new international economic order, the term North was used to refer to the Western industrial nations, and the term South was used to refer to poor nations exporting raw materials. These talks achieved no progress at all because of the northern nations' insistence on their own interests and their unwillingness to make any sacrifices in the interest of the poor nations of the south.

What sense, then, does all this talk make about the principles aspired to by nations of the East and West, North and South, as indicated by that message? Did the writer of the letter realize the meaning of these remarks, or did he write them only to practice his writing skills?

Has the subject of principles witnessed anything new? Has apartheid in South Africa vanished? Have the African citizens attained their right to rule their country? And has the racist, terrorist regime which usurped authority been liquidated? The answer is no. Has the United Nations applied its resolutions—more than 400—to the Palestine question? Has the UN Security Council seriously begun implementing its 174 resolutions on the Palestine question by adopting deterrent

measures against the Zionist entity? The answer is no. Moreover, has any UN Security Council member-state entitled to the veto shown any interest in the daily killing, terrorism, and demolition of homes carried out by Zionist terrorists in the occupied territories—in a manner unprecedented in the history of mankind's toughest criminals? The answer is no. There has been an opportunity for a test recently. The result has been the known resolution. This indicates that the situation is exactly the same as it was in the past.

What progress has there been in the field of poverty, starvation, and the unfair distribution of wealth? Is there any initiative or even the beginning of any action in this regard? The answer is no.

What happened was the Soviet Union's withdrawal from the international arena and its submission [taslimahuh] to U.S. policy to serve its economic interests. This led to the collapse of all the pro-Soviet regimes in East Europe. West European countries began rearranging the situation on the European continent to absorb the new reality for its own sake, and not for anything else.

The Soviet Union's withdrawal has resulted in the unilateral handling of international affairs by the United States. The United States has become the country dominating world affairs. All this has constituted a significant change in the international state of affairs. However, the grave mistake rests in the interpretation of what has actually happened and in the understanding of its meaning and results. It would be a grave mistake to say that what happened was the consolidation of the supremacy of international law and a victory for UN principles and the principles of freedom, independence, and justice in the world.

What happened was the opposite. In the past, there was a sort of balance between the camp of colonialism, imperialism, and economic monopoly, which also includes the most presumptuous kinds of colonialism such as Zionism and the racist regimes, and a camp that is still somehow influenced by principles of justice and support for the oppressed nations and for liberation. Hence, there was a factor that curbed the excesses of the imperialist front, reducing its hegemony over the world. But now the balance has been eliminated, and the scale has tipped in favor of the front of colonialism and imperialism. Therefore, how could this be in favor of justice, international law, and the principles of the UN Charter?

The picture can still be clearer, and yet uglier, when we analyze the situation in the Arab homeland. What is meant by the new international order as far as the Arab homeland is concerned is to keep the situation as it is. This is what is really going on. What does this mean in practical terms? The Arab homeland has been partitioned by Western colonialism, and this is a historic fact beyond any doubt, and has been proven by the behavior of the imperialist countries since the partition and up until now. The most evident form of this fact is the

creation of the entity of Kuwait by the British. What the imperialist countries—led by the United States—mean by the supremacy of international law is essentially maintaining the status of partition, despite the harm and negative impact to the Arab nation. Hence the shedding of crocodile tears over the Kuwaiti Government—even though everyone knows how it was created, how it has behaved, and what it has done.

This also means blocking an important road for the Arab unity movement and obstructing the achievement of Arab unity. How can the Arab nation be prevented from realizing its unity in the name of international law? And who has given the authority to the United States to maintain the status of partition, which it created to serve its interests? In summation, this means keeping the old situation as it was and is, which reflects the reactionary trend in the history of Europe and other world continents. Keeping the old situation as it is would precisely serve colonialism and its reactionary rulers, who benefit from the old situation. Consequently, the slogan of international law is a deceptive slogan meant to prevent the revolution and obstruct changes and development.

The colonialist countries are very concerned with talk of international law, especially when this pertains to the Arab homeland, and the fundamental reason is safeguarding the Zionist entity. Since membership in the United Nations and the exchange of diplomatic representation with other countries is the basis of legitimacy that is protected by international law, the Zionist entity is legitimate, will survive, and must not be infringed upon, in line with the same rationale of the United States and the colonialist countries regarding the Kuwaiti entity. A change for the worse then occurred in the international situation. This change was in the interest of the United States and the Western colonialist countries—not of the countries of the East, West, North, and South, as outlined in the letter. It was a negative development for the countries being aggressed against, such as the Arab nation and the poor, oppressed peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America—and not the reverse.

What shall we do, given this situation? The text of the letter means that our duty is to accept and conform to U.S. policy and the colonialist camp. However, what we should do is entirely the opposite. What is required is to resist and confront the situation of unilateral U.S. hegemony of world affairs. We are a nation against which aggression has been committed: Palestine is usurped by Zionism, with the assistance and backing of the United States and the colonialist countries. Zionism has occupied territories of other Arab countries—Syria and Lebanon—and systematically persecutes the Palestinian people, occupies their holy places, violates their honor, insults their dignity, and acts wantonly in the region. Moreover, the imperialist countries' forces are occupying the land of Muslim sanctities in Najd and Hejaz and the Arab Gulf, dominating Arab oil wealth, and launching armed aggression against an Arab country—Iraq. Is the logical response capitulation and acquiescence, or confrontation and resistance? The logical

response is definitely confrontation and resistance. An old Arab saying goes "he who has no self-respect makes it easy for others to humiliate him."

What resulted from the scenario which the letter talks about was negative. International law took a step backward, not forward; and the principles to which the various countries in the east and west, north and south aspire to in order to regulate relations among countries have suffered a setback, and not the reverse. This is the beginning of the U.S. era: the era of colonialist tyranny, in its old format which the world has known—the era of Britain, France, and Zionism. On the Arab level, Fahd's corrupt and agent regime is trying to maintain its domination of the region.

This is happening at a time when the United States is talking about international law regarding the Kuwaiti Government. Last year, in 1990, U.S. forces entered Panama, occupied it, changed its government, committed massacres there, and took its president to Florida in handcuffs. As far as the U.S. President and his supporters were concerned, international law was not infringed upon.

The United States is a country that was in fact established by a colonial settlement which removed the indigenous natives. It has in fact been based on violence and force, which were used to remove and exterminate the red Indians, and against competitors from the inhabitants of Mexico. Force, and not justice and law, was the first principle in the establishment of the United States. Force, and not justice and law, prevailed for a long time in the American west. The United States was a colonial country that moved quickly to annex all that its hands could grab from adjacent areas, such as the Hawaiian islands and Puerto Rico. It aligned itself with the European colonial countries throughout all phases of that bloody history in exploiting people and controlling their fates. It enslaved the Negroes and used them as slaves for a long period of time. Even after the end of the slavery system, it is still treating them as second-class citizens, with all the insults to man's dignity and rights that this racial discrimination implies. It is the primary capitalist country with all the inherent selfishness, self-adoration, greed, and desire to exploit and drain the blood of the toiling classes in America and the rest of the world. This state, whose roots are deeply entrenched in evil and vice, has no competitor today—acting alone in world affairs, and with a mighty military force under its command. How then could it be expected to side with justice, fairness, and peoples' rights? It is now as far removed from this as it could possibly be. It has begun to publicly talk about leading the world and controlling it, after being hesitant in doing so in the past. To this end, it needs a coverup and a justification. The coverup is this talk about international law and the new world order. What is this new world order? The word "order" must be defined, and its components clarified. What is its definition, and what are the components that it implies so

that it can be termed an order? The beginning of the order was the intervention in Panama, and then came the matter of Kuwait.

What is meant by the order regarding Kuwait is simply—without flowery language—preventing Iraq from rectifying what British colonialism did when it separated Kuwait from Iraq and established that corrupt and fabricated entity. In other words, the order aims at freezing the state of affairs in the Arab nation and maintaining divisions and the Gulf and non-Gulf corrupt regimes that are linked with the colonialist countries. And economically, the order means controlling the oil in the region after it has become known that an oil crisis will occur at the end of the decade, and that the only countries that are capable of increasing production to avoid the crisis are Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, the union of Kuwait with Iraq and Iraq's control of a significant part of the oil in the region are detrimental to the colonialist U.S. interests. And the United States should resist this. This is the practical content of the so-called implementation of the new international order on Kuwait. And this also means that the war launched by the United States against Iraq is a colonialist war—not a war for the sake of international law, as they claim.

Zionism usurped Palestine by force; it is occupying Arab lands by force, and carrying out repressive acts against the Palestinian people; it is also carrying out belligerent acts in the region and calling for holding negotiations with the Arab states similar to Camp David negotiations. Does this mean that the Arabs should relinquish the liberation of Palestine and the confrontation with Zionism, so that we will be able to stand on the threshold of the 21st century, and so that those who speak about international law such as America and the colonialist Western countries will be satisfied with us? This is the exact reasoning of colonialism, and is what is wanted by Zionism.

And then, what are the challenges that are different from the kind humanity has faced in the past? If the challenges are the liquidation of old and new colonialism, achieving justice, rectifying the international economic system, redistributing wealth, achieving Arab unity, and achieving progress for Arab and Third World countries, then these same challenges existed in the past, still exist, and will continue to exist. These challenges are not new ones that were previously unknown to the human race in the past. How will Arabs achieve a just peace and liberation from colonialism? Will this be achieved by appealing to Zionism to relinquish the occupation of Palestine and the other Arab lands and to take its hands off the people of Palestine? Will this be achieved by appealing to America to stop its interference in the affairs of the Arab countries and its hegemony over their oil wealth? They want the aggrieved people to relinquish the spirit of resistance. The peace they seek is capitulation. It is the known peace of the Roman Empire.

Foreign Minister Demands Iran Return Helicopter

NC2703185191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir today summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires and informed him of the need to return a Iraqi helicopter gunship and its crew. The helicopter made an emergency landing on Iranian territory the day before yesterday [25 March].

Further on Ministry Invitation to Journalists

NC2703192391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry has invited a number of Arab and foreign journalists to visit Iraq. Local press correspondents and eyewitnesses have reported on the stability and security in the southern governorates, where the Armed Forces and the special security teams have accomplished the task of restoring security. The reports say that normal life has returned to all the southern governorates, all public facilities have resumed their services to the citizens, and hundreds of thousands of students have begun classes.

Citizens and journalists travel from South to North to watch the Armed Forces and the special security teams restore order in the northern areas in Iraq.

Observers noticed that the Dahuk Governorate, its districts, subdistricts, and villages are about to be fully purged. Correspondents said that the elimination of pockets of saboteurs in the northern areas is proceeding according to plan, and that several armed formations have left the southern areas for the northern cities and villages to restore normal life there.

Reports said that the Armed Forces are providing facilities to citizens in the northern areas during the purging operations, and that they are cooperating with the other official organs to meet the citizens' basic, emergency, and daily needs. The reports added that the Armed Forces, in cooperation with the special teams and the Ba'th Party organizations, have drawn up emergency plans to supply the stricken areas with medicine and food. Immense efforts are being made to secure the humanitarian and basic daily needs of fuel, electricity, and water.

In its invitation to Arab and foreign journalists, the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry hoped that television teams from France, the United States, Britain, and Spain, and journalists from Jordan and Algeria would arrive in Baghdad within the next three days.

Naji al-Hadithi, head of the Information Department at the ministry, said that these journalists are the first group to visit Iraq. He noted that technical arrangements have been made for fast television, press, and radio coverage from Iraq.

An Iraqi journalist said that inviting Arab and foreign journalists to visit Iraq at this time clearly proves that the state of Iraq is not worried about anything, and that this is a practical reply to the hostile media disinformation campaign which stands behind banners which display following slogan: This report was not confirmed by independent sources [words indistinct].

Voice of Free Iraq Urges Army To Topple Saddam

LD2703205991 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Sons of our Iraqi people; sons of our valiant Army; officers and men wherever you may be in all sectors. Champion your people's uprising. Back the will of the people to overthrow the Saddam regime. Slain Iraq will not come back to life except through the force of the army and the people. Iraq will not rise again except with the army joining the people's uprising.

Officers, commanders of the Army in all sectors: Fulfill your pledge to the people; close your ranks under a unified leadership to topple Saddam and his regime. The people are looking to your role in the reunification of Iraq. They also look to your leadership in winning victory and in deciding the situation in favor of the people. Without the Army a defenseless people cannot confront tyranny alone.

Free men of the army, blessed ones who pledged loyalty to and promised victory for the people, this is your day. This is your glory. Rise up in support of the people and prevent the tyrant's massacres. Stop the bloodshed of your people by staging an uprising that will topple Saddam.

Officers in all the Army divisions and regiments, retired officers, exiled and detained officers, sons of the Army and the Armed Forces in all sectors: Without you, overwhelming victory over the tyrant will not be achieved. Close ranks and unify your leadership. Make your decision to overthrow the tyrant. There is no salvation for Iraq except with Saddam's disappearance. There will be no mercy for Iraq except with the collapse of the era of tyranny.

Blessed sons of the Iraqi Army, the people call you; you are worthy of the call. This is your day. This is your glory. Victory to the people of Iraq! Victory to the Army of Iraq!

Opposition Radio Urges Army To Join Uprising

NC2703150391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellion Iraq in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Since its inception, the uprising being staged by our Muslim people in Iraq has witnessed several cases in which large numbers of Iraqi Army units joined the ranks of the fierce uprising against the tyrant Saddam.

The zealous units which joined the ranks of their fraternal units staging the popular uprising sincerely reflect the cohesion of the various popular forces against the dictatorial rule and arrogance of the ruling hangman. These units are well aware before others of how deranged and confused the ruling regime in Baghdad has become. This is because they were the first to suffer from his fire, injustice, and madness. It has become crystal clear that Saddam and his henchmen are indifferent to the assets and resources of the Iraqi people and Army. Hence, Saddam and his henchmen have begun to tamper with their resources at will, without regarding the fate of this patient people who have gone through numerous ordeals. Saddam and his henchmen have not shown any sense of responsibility before the world and history. Therefore, they have been embroiling the people and the Armed Forces in grinding wars that have nothing to do with their interests.

Likewise, it has become clear that Saddam is not concerned about his people and Army. He is more interested in maintaining his position and power. The clear evidence that substantiates this is that he has actually been defeated in two reckless wars that he waged against both Iran and Kuwait. In the aftermath of his political and military failures in these two wars, instead of agreeing with the people's demands for him to resign and step down as a declaration of repentance and inefficiency, which is the normal procedure in all world states, he has begun to unleash his wrath against the people who have been exhausted and burdened by wars. What is worse is that the tyrant has unleashed his anger against the people who rose up to let off steam and express the injustice being done to them. Saddam has begun to express his ingrained rancor against this poor people who have decided to take revenge on the treasonous rulers and to take them to account, the rulers who hold in disdain all values and ethics.

As for the zealous and clever sons of our Armed Forces who joined the revolutionary committee's ranks, they were the first to know of the criminal makeup of the Iraqi rulers and how these rulers differ from other world rulers. They also knew before others that the elimination of this corrupt clique which is towering over the holy lands lies in joining the ranks of their people who are staging popular resistance. Thus, groups of Armed Forces personnel have begun to join the people's ranks, one after another. The latest such operation occurred yesterday when a helicopter gunship, complete with its weapons and crew, joined the revolutionaries' ranks in the al-'Amarah area.

Hence, patriotism and religion dictate a courageous stand by all zealous sons of our Armed Forces. They are asked to join the revolutionaries' ranks with their weapons and equipment to expedite the downfall of the regime of tyranny and injustice in Baghdad and consequently to record an honorable position in these precarious circumstances through which our nation in rebellious Iraq is passing.

By doing so, our brothers within the Armed Forces will have done the most honorable thing before the nation, future generations, and history.

In the final analysis, the position that man takes on events reflects where he stands; and he who has no position is worthless. As for the sons of our noble army, they are capable of taking such an honorable position. And you will soon learn of this position.

Clashes, Demonstrations Reported in Baghdad

*LD2703211991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Text] Various regions of Baghdad were scenes of extensive demonstrations and fierce clashes between forces loyal to Saddam Husayn and opposition forces on Wednesday.

A report of the Central News Unit, citing Radio Damascus, says the city of al-Thawrah in Iraq, with a population of 1 million, was the scene of demonstrations against the Saddam government.

Meanwhile in the al-Jadidah region of Baghdad, extensive demonstrations took place which resulted in regime forces shooting at the demonstrators.

Talabani Says Kurds Do Not Want Separate State

*NC2803104891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0849 GMT
28 Mar 91*

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] has stressed that the Kurds wish to preserve Iraq's unity and are not seeking to partition it. He said that what they hope to achieve is a form of federal government or autonomy for the Kurds. He noted that the matter will be decided in accordance with what the Iraqi people agree on.

This came in an interview, published today, which Talabani granted to the correspondent of the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR in Damascus.

Answering a question on the contacts which he recently held in Turkey and which were the first of their kind, Talabani said that the talks were held between a Kurdish delegation led by him and a political Turkish delegation which did not include any personnel from the Turkish intelligence service. He noted that the contacts were held with known political figures that included Togan Ostiri, first under secretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and Janek Dogataba, a former ambassador and director of one of the Turkish Foreign Ministry departments [names and titles as received]. Talabani added that the Turkish president's adviser and the prime minister's adviser also participated in the talks.

Talabani announced that the meeting was held on a political level and included a general discussion of Turkish-Kurdish relations which have always been tense as a

result of Turkey's intransigent stand on the Kurds. They also discussed the Turkish Government's position on the Iraqi opposition and the situation in Iraq. He said: On our part we reassured the Turks that the Kurdish people in Iraq do not want to secede from Iraq and form a separate state but are seeking a united and democratic Iraq that guarantees Kurdish rights.

He said that no one in Iraqi Kurdistan is struggling to form a Kurdish state and explained that the Turks are very apprehensive of the concept of a Kurdish state.

Kurdish Leader Questions Authority of Talabani

NC2703231791 Paris AFP in English 2242 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] Al-Hulwah, Lebanon, March 27 (AFP)—The leader of Kurdish rebels in Turkey, Abdullah Ocalan, on Wednesday questioned the authority of a leader of Kurdish rebels in Iraq, Jalal Talabani.

"Mr. Talabani doesn't have the right to negotiate for the Kurds, especially the 12 million who live in Turkey," Mr. Ocalan, the secretary general of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, told AFP here in the al-Biq'a Valley.

"Mr. Talabani is tied to the United States, to Britain, and to NATO, of which Turkey is one of the pillars," he added. "The Kurdish population had trouble accepting his return (to northern Iraq)."

Mr. Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, met Turkish leaders in Ankara and said after the meeting that the Kurds wanted to turn a new page in their relations with Turkey.

He returned Tuesday to Iraq, in an area held by Kurdish rebels.

Mr. Ocalan also expressed concern about a rapprochement between Ankara and another leader of the rebellion in Iraq, Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK).

"I'm in conflict" with Mr. Barzani, he said. "The conflict may degenerate into war if he allies himself with Turkey."

A DPK representative attended the Ankara meeting with Mr. Talabani.

Dahuk 'Purged;' Massacres Reported

NC2803085691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA)—The northern town of Dahuk has been purged and life has returned to normal there after the symbols of agency, crime, and treachery tried to rape it.

In a preliminary report sent from inside the town and published today, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the

"Fathakah" forces, aided by other forces, chased the invaders and bands of traitors into the mountain valleys outside the region.

The newspaper throws light on the criminal, terrorist, and dirty deeds that the saboteurs, traitors, and agents committed in Dahuk, Qasabat Sumayl, Fa'idah sub-district, and adjacent villages. It says that the massacres committed by the criminals against the inhabitants of the region are hard to believe.

Citing interviews with citizens in Dahuk Governorate, AL-'IRAQ describes chapters of the tragedies caused by the saboteurs, who stole the people's money, jewelry, and food and burned their homes and furniture.

The citizens say that the agent elements who entered Dahuk had no mercy on women, children, and old men. The citizens agreed that wholesale murder was the law of these evildoers, who committed bloodbaths and mutilated bodies.

Brigadier General, Officers Join 'Revolution'

NC2803091591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 0648 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Last night our revolutionaries managed to liberate Commander of the (?6th Armored Division) Staff Brigadier General Sa'dun Yunus Muhammad Amin and a group of senior army officers, including Staff Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Hdayyir Hasan, commander of that division's 25th Brigade; Major Hafidh Fadil [last name indistinct], commander of an armored battalion in the same division; and others. We shall give you their names along with further details about this epic liberation operation. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, we have been informed that the cities of Karkuk and Dahuk had been bombarded by artillery and helicopter gunships. In another development, groups of our valiant Armed Forces are still joining the popular revolution. In the last 24 hours, 808 military personnel, including a division commander and seven senior officers, joined the revolution. We will provide you with the names and details as soon as we get them.

2d Division Headquarters Reported Captured

LD2703181291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The headquarters of the Iraqi infantry's 2d Division in the 'Ali Sharqi region and another military headquarters south of the Iraqi village of (Tieb) have been captured by the Iraqi opposition.

The Central News Unit report citing opposition sources indicates that the opposition forces engaged in clashes with the forces stationed at that division's headquarters, 37 km south of 'Ali Sharqi city. They managed to capture the headquarters and take captive 20 Ba'thist military personnel. A large number of them [Ba'thist forces] were also killed or wounded.

According to the same report, during another operation, the Iraqi opposition managed to capture the Iraqi military headquarters based 20 km southeast of the town of (Tieb), near Zubaydat. They managed to seize four anti-aircraft guns and a large amount of light weapons and ammunitions.

Also, IRNA reports that clashes continued in al-Basrah Governorate between the popular forces and the Ba'thist forces last night. The report mentions that the sound caused by the clashes could be clearly heard in Khorramshahr throughout the night.

IRNA adds: A large number of Iraqi refugees together with their cattle are gathered near the border and intend to leave Iraq, but are unable to because of military forces.

Scuds Reported Deployed Near Al-Basrah

NC2703213391 Paris AFP in English 2046 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] North Hajarah Desert, Iraq, March 27 (AFP)—Forces loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn have positioned Scud missiles near the southern port of al-Basrah, surrendering soldiers from the Republican Guard said Wednesday.

At least two Scud missiles were transported to al-Basrah and positioned to its north, said two Republican Guard troops who left the city earlier Wednesday and surrendered to U.S. soldiers at a checkpoint about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of al-Basrah.

"They were not there before," one of the soldiers, a man in his 20's who had been in the Republican Guard for two years, told AFP.

He said he did not know if loyalist Iraqi troops were planning to use the missiles to help crush a revolt which was continuing in several southern cities Wednesday.

Other surrendering Iraqi soldiers interviewed at various points south of the Euphrates River said the army appeared to have the upper hand in al-Basrah and several other areas but that resistance continued in al-Najaf, al-Nasiriyah and al-Samawah.

Units loyal to Mr. Husayn were having difficulty coordinating their activities and were communicating by morse code over telephone lines, the soldiers said.

"All the channels of communication we used before have been ruined either by the Americans or by ourselves," said one regular Iraqi army soldier who surrendered near al-Nasiriyah.

Pro-government forces in al-Basrah were using tanks to demolish homes and had killed many civilians in recent days, he said.

The army had al-Basrah mostly under control but resistance was continuing sporadically both in the city center and in the suburbs, the soldiers said.

An AFP reporter about 30 kilometers (18 miles) outside al-Basrah saw tracer fire and flares being fired into the air in the al-Basrah suburb of Abu al-Khasib.

The soldiers said most of the Republican Guard units which had taken control of al-Basrah were leaving the city and heading north toward Baghdad, but that it was unclear whether some were staying behind or whether the guard had handed over to regular army units.

Opposition Issues Warning to Mojaheddin-e Khalq

NC2703204091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
of Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The Iranian Mojaheddin-e Khalq organization, which is led by (Massoud Wali Adel), is now fighting side by side with the most despotic regime in the world and against the aspirations of the Iraqi people. On 25 March that organization fired tank and Katyusha shells at the rebelling masses in (Damar). The shelling left 27 citizens killed or wounded. The Peshmerga forces took a firm defensive action and managed within an hour to destroy the tanks and vehicles of that aggressive force and to capture several of its personnel.

During the past two weeks, the forces of the Mojaheddin-e Khalq organization used artillery and katushas every day against the rebelling masses in Tuz, (Kibri), and (Kurwazuf). The shelling led to the martyrdom of over 500 Kurds and Turkmans, including women and children.

In addition, an armored force of the same organization intercepted a convoy of civilian vehicles that was transporting the rebelling masses from Klar to Sulayman Bak. The intercepting force fired at the convoy, killing 41 citizens.

We have warned the leadership of that organization three times. The policies followed by that organization are completely wrong and against its own long-term interests.

On 14 March the committee of the Kurdistan Front in al-Sulaymaniyah sent a message to that organization through another Iranian organization. At a later date the Kurdistan Front's official in the same area read that message to one of the Mojaheddin-e Khalq to stress the point. But it seems that the leadership of that organization has decided to act against the Iraqi people and to confront the uprising of the Kurdish people. What that organization has done so far seems to confirm that point.

In our interviews with the prisoners of that organization, they said that their officials claim that the current uprising is not a popular one and that the Iranian forces occupy the towns and villages in Kurdistan. These officials are thus lying to deceive the members of their organization and force them to fight and act as enemies of the Iraqi people.

O members of Mojaheddin-e Khalq, the 49th, 26th, and 13th Divisions, 40 Iraqi tanks and 15 troop carriers, and two artillery batteries, under the command of (Tohrat

Amiri and Fadla Zahuri) came to Jallula' and al-Takrit to kill the Kurdish citizens. You may be able to carry out your commanders' orders and kill thousands of civilian Iraqis, but is it true that your duty is to make enemies of the Iraqi and Kurdish people? Is the protection of the Iraqi regime a task that you should perform? If the answer is yes, then carry on with your current actions and stand in the face of the aspirations of the Iraqi people. But how will you save yourselves from the wrath of the insurgent masses and the curse of history? What answers can you give the Iraqi and Iranian people? You have declared war against the Iraqi people. We will give you a few more days to correct your position. Afterward, it will be no use for you to have regrets.

We assure you that if you keep following these misguided policies, you will not escape the punishment of the Iraqi people. We remind you that you are guests in this land and that you are acting inappropriately and illegally. Therefore, we tell you that it is not yet too late for you to mend your ways and stop acting against the aspirations of the Iraqi masses. Otherwise, we will expose your positions and denounce you in a statement issued by the Kurdistan Front. You have declared war against the Iraqi people. We will give you a few more days to mend your ways, after which it will be too late. Forewarned is forearmed.

Opposition Forces' Successes Detailed

NC2703143191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Reports from Iraq say that the popular uprising against the Iraqi regime is continuing and that most of the cities in south and central Iraq are daily and continuously witnessing constant clashes between the popular and regime forces. [passage omitted]

The reports from inside Iraq indicate that the popular revolution forces have recaptured parts of Karbala' city and that 300 soldiers from the 3d Division, which is deployed in Karbala', have joined the popular revolution forces. The reports added that the Iraqi popular forces have dealt successive blows to the collapsing Iraqi regime's forces, which began to withdraw from southern Iraq toward Baghdad, where the popular forces yesterday ambushed a convoy of Iraqi regime's tanks on the al-'Amarah-al-Kut road. A number of vehicles and guns were burned and destroyed and other vehicles laden with ammunition were seized.

The spokesman [not further identified] said that the popular forces also attacked a camp for the Iraqi regime's 2d Division in the 'Ali al-Gharbi region and succeeded in seizing it and the equipment and weapons there.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] said that the popular forces in northern Iraq attacked the camps in Bajawan village, which lies on the Kiwan-al-Takrit road. Following fierce fighting with the Iraqi regime's forces, the popular forces seized the Bajawan camp and the

butane gas and sulphur factories there. In a statement it issued today, the PUK said that the popular forces have also succeeded in taking control of the hill overlooking the Kuna Kotar dam in northern Iraq and captured the sentries guarding the dam. The statement added that a large force of the regime backed by tanks and armored vehicles failed in the offensive they launched on Monday to enter the (Kafri), (Qara Batta), Jalula', and Khanaqin areas.

Coming Democracy, Political Pluralism Discussed

NC2803095291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the coming new stage in the life of Iraq will be characterized by civil liberties, plurality of political parties, and freedom of the press under the auspices of the Constitution and the rule of law.

The newspaper, which reflects the views of the Defense Ministry, notes that this principled policy affirms the leadership's confidence in the people, particularly after the cohesiveness between the leadership and the people in the past days succeeded in burying the sedition that was provoked by some inimical forces who wanted to use it as a means to destroy the Iraqi people's great achievements.

AL-QADISIYAH urges all Iraqis to embark frankly, logically, and seriously on discussing the draft Constitution in a scientific manner that suits the needs of the coming stage. It calls on them to realize their responsibility in order to shoulder the duties of the new stage.

AL-QADISIYAH affirms that the intensity of the conspiracy and the fact that it took the form of actual operations against Iraq made it necessary to wait for some time before embarking on discussing the Constitution and laying the foundations of the new democratic stage.

The paper says that after succeeding in confronting the conspiracy and thwarting its objectives, Iraq finds it necessary now to reformulate the principles and pillars of the new democratic stage in a way that preserves for the Iraqis their correct policy and strengthens their determination to achieve reconstruction and progress.

The paper adds that the leadership's determination to spread a climate of democracy and liberty and to ratify (?Iraq's permanent) Constitution comes today as the epitome of the revolution and the crowning achievement of its persevering struggle to achieve justice and stability for the sons of Iraq.

Multifaceted Plot Against Iraq Noted

NC2803092491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Arabs who have helped America to

realize its aggressive dreams will discover that they wasted Iraq's power and the wealth which they seized, and then regret will be useless, and they will return to the deserts bankrupt.

In a main article under the headline "The (?Arabs) Wasted the Power and Will Also Waste the Wealth," the paper says today that the threads of the conspiracy which was implemented against Iraq were held by the fingers of one hand, but the participants in its implementation had many names and different faces. The principal beneficiary from this conspiracy is "Israel."

The paper adds: "Israel" has put into effect the American aggression against Iraq. It has always sought the destruction of Iraq. The anarchist mobs who wanted the strife to spread throughout Iraq [words indistinct].

The paper notes that the American aggression implemented a plan prepared by America before 2 August in coordination with "Israel," its forward base in the area, to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and its military, economic, and psychological capacity. It is significant that one of the aims of the mobs which carried out the acts of sabotage, violation of honor, burning, and destruction, was to destroy [words indistinct], albeit their methods were different from those used by the Americans and their allies. This shows that the conspiracy is the same, but with several chapters and different participants.

The paper adds: We in Iraq, who have stood fast and endured in the face of the most vicious campaigns against us mounted by evil forces from 30 states, are sure of these facts.

Regime's Media Handling of 'Revolution' Criticized

NC2703151591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Since the first days of the popular revolution in Iraq and with the escalation of its events, Saddam's media has attempted to reformulate its policy and the way it addresses people to be in complete harmony with the regime views on this revolution. The way the regime is confronting the revolution is based on seeing it as a problem that can be solved using the methods the regime is notorious for: methods of bloody repression. Throughout its history, Saddam's regime has never tried to use political solutions for its domestic problems. This regime does not have a record of using dialogue in an attempt to reach an understanding. Consequently, the function of its media continues to be inspired by the policies of repression and terrorism. It is not only the repressive armed organs that reflect Saddam's complexes, suffering, and ways of handling situations and

problems. The media has also begun to assume uglier proportions in its attempts to justify these complexes and solutions.

The horrible massacres may be committed in silence. This regime's media may impose news blackouts on them. However, the hard facts will be sniffed through the news media, despite the daily flood of falsifications and lies produced by the media in a failed defensive attempt to misrepresent facts. The existing facts which are crystal clear will be known despite the attempts by Saddam's miserable trumpets to hide them. Saddam's radio is in the habit of airing fictitious interviews with [words indistinct] who claim to be [words indistinct] and who call their revolutionary people rebels. These interviews maintained that the rebels destroyed economic targets and service installations in various Iraqi cities. Anyone who listens to such superficial and stupid fabrications draws one of the two following conclusions: Either those responsible for the media are so backward that they know the facts only as they are communicated to them by Saddam, or they purposely belittle the people by trying to sell them unbelievable stories. [words indistinct] a well-considered campaign of total destruction, sanctioned by an international resolution that was drafted and implemented by the United States in the wake of the occupation of Kuwait by Saddam, a destruction that will return Iraq to the ancient eras.

After the cease-fire, Saddam decided to destroy what remained of the significant installations in the governorates with tanks, artillery, and other types of weapons and ammunition. It is thus a failed attempt to brand our revolutionary Islamic people as vandals in search of an accomplice who would share with Saddam his horrific crime.

The only thing to say about this exposed media ploy is to remind the world of the following facts: Our people's revolution reflects the simmering rejection of the regime in our people's hearts and minds. Popular indignation served as a fuse for this rejection protesting the status of destruction and devastation. How can our people resort to destruction, considering that they have risen up against the destruction caused by the regime? Besides, the revolution is moving amid an afflicted and defenseless people who do not have the weapons to cause destruction and devastation. If they had weapons, our people would never have thought of using them to destroy their country. Common sense rather than strong convictions, and logical arguments rather than blind belief, make it hard for us to believe these false and stupid allegations. Hence, let the crime of destroying Iraq top the list of the crimes committed by Saddam and his deranged clique. May all the attempts being made to find a partner that would share Saddam's crimes fail. The reference here is to the crime that will bring about his downfall. This will happen because of the divine retribution waiting for him at the hands of a people who are making headway to achieve their objective, like a sweeping flood, and who are confidently approaching final salvation, God willing.

USSR To Reestablish Full Diplomatic Ties

TA2803101791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
28 Mar 91 pp A1, A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Moscow correspondent Walter Ruby]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union intends to reestablish full diplomatic relations with Israel within several weeks and certainly no later than six months from today. This transpired from reports sent by Israeli diplomats in Moscow, on the basis of talks with senior Soviet Foreign Ministry officials.

Political sources in Jerusalem believe that the Soviet decision comes against the background of the U.S. stipulation that the Soviets convene full diplomatic relations with Israel before participating in the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Israel will soon increase the permanent staff at its consulate in Moscow, to include press, cultural, and commercial attaches, as well as an administrative officer.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 March in a report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar on pages A1 and A4 adds that "for the first time since diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR were severed, a Soviet delegation will arrive in Jerusalem in the next few weeks for political talks with Foreign Ministry officials.

"The delegation may be headed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov, who is in charge of Middle Eastern affairs at the Soviet Foreign Ministry." The report notes that "sources in Jerusalem said that an agreement in principle has been reached regarding the visit of the Soviet officials in the framework of the political meetings held by Israeli officials in Moscow last September. The level at which the talks will be held still remains unclear, and it is possible that the Soviets will be content with sending a delegation led by Vasily Klutsha [name as published], the head of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who is currently meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis.

"During its recent contacts with Israel, Moscow has shown great interest in initiatives to scale back the Middle East arms race. The Soviet Union, one of Syria's major arms suppliers, expressed its readiness to contribute to reducing the arms buildup in the region. Another issue which the Soviets brought up was the setting up of a military command center to prevent conflicts resulting from misunderstandings between Israel and the Arab countries."

Moves on USSR, Albania, PRC Ties Described

TA2803110591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] A few month ago, a high-level Israeli delegation visited Moscow for talks with Soviet officials. The delegation consisted of Dr. Yosef Govrin, assistant director

general of the Foreign Ministry for Eastern European affairs; Eytan Ben-Tzur, assistant director general for North American affairs; and David Afeq, head of the Foreign Ministry's Research Division. It was agreed that the Soviets would pay a return visit. However, officials in Jerusalem told me this morning: No date has been set; the composition of the Soviet delegation has not yet been decided nor has the agenda for the talks. This morning's newspaper report that the Soviet deputy foreign minister would be coming to discuss arms control in the Middle East was therefore premature.

The same was true of the report from Paris that Albania will establish diplomatic relations with Israel after the Albanian elections. An Israeli reporter in Paris said he had been told this by the Albanian prime minister. Official sources in Jerusalem say the current contacts between Israel and Albania are at a very early stage, although Israel is encouraged by any sign at all that the Albanians are interested in normalizing relations.

However, officials in Jerusalem were not discouraged by China's statement that diplomatic relations with Israel were not to be expected in the near future. The Chinese denial says there are many ways of normalizing relations with Israel without diplomatic relations. Official circles in Jerusalem point out that an Israeli diplomat, Ambassador Ze'ev Sufit, has taken up residence in Beijing. Formally, he is the adviser to the head of the Israeli academic mission there, but the Chinese know exactly who he is.

Attorney Negotiating Hostage Deal With Iran

Meets Iranian, Soviet, U.S. Envoys

TA2803103291 Tel Aviv YEDOT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 28 Mar 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Jewish Telegraphic Agency]

[Excerpt] Attorney Amnon Zikhroni conferred on Tuesday [26 March] in Geneva with representatives from Iran, the USSR, the United States, and the International Red Cross. Zikhroni is trying to bring about the release of the hostages being held by the Iranians.

Last week Zikhroni visited Moscow, where he conferred with Yevgeniy Primakov, the Foreign Ministry's Middle East expert, and Gennadiy Yanayev, one of Gorbachev's top advisers. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 28 March airs a telephone interview with Zikhroni by Shalom Qital in which Zikhroni confirms that he held meetings in Moscow and that he returned from meetings in Geneva yesterday. "All I have confirmed so far is that I met with Primakov, who has an office in the Kremlin and now deals with security and defense, and with president adviser Yanayev. I regret that I cannot discuss

my Geneva meetings." Asked whether Primakov has connections in Iran, Zikhroni replies that he "is a man with connections."]

Soviet Aide Doubts Primakov Role

TA2803113591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Report on telephone interview with Soviet official Robert Vartanovich Markaryan, aide to Soviet Presidential Advisor Yevgeniy Primakov, in Moscow, by Gid'on Remez on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Primakov did have one meeting with Mr. Amnon Zikhroni but I cannot give you information about the POW's or hostages. Robert Markaryan, an aide to the Soviet president, [title as heard] told us. Even Primakov himself cannot say more than that.

[Begin Markaryan recording in English] I don't know, and I think that Mr. Primakov will not be helpful in this regard also. [end recording]

[Remez translates the above and continues] Since his talk with Zikhroni, Primakov has not dealt with the issue, which is currently not the focus of his attention since becoming a member of the Soviet Government's new Security Council.

[Begin Markaryan recording in English] You see, I don't know that he is now in contact with those people. [end recording]

[Remez translates and continues] I do not think he is now in contact with the Middle East elements linked to the POW issue, Markaryan said.

Russian Church Head Visits, Condemns Anti-Semitism

TA2703173391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The head of the Russian Orthodox Church has arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union. Patriarch Aleksey II is here as the guest of the Greek Orthodox patriarch, and was welcomed at the airport by leaders of all Christian communities and the minister for religious affairs, Avner Sciaki.

On arrival, the patriarch said that the Russian Church was opposed to all acts of anti-Semitism and would work to prevent any attack on Jews in Russia. During his stay here, he will meet with President Herzog and Prime Minister Shamir. Among the aims of the visit is to arrange regular pilgrimages for Soviet Christians and to look into the status of the Russian Church here, including the properties it owns.

Ambassador to U.S. Shoval Returns for Holiday

Met With Baker; No New Ideas

TA2803062391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the United States, by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Dan] Zalman Shoval, our UN ambassador arrived here a short time ago and is already in his Tel Aviv home, following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which is of interest to us. Good morning, Mr. Shoval.

[Shoval] Good morning, but first I must correct you; I am ambassador in Washington and not at the United Nations.

[Dan] That is correct; my apologies. Are you bringing any message from Baker to Shamir?

[Shoval] Yes, I am bringing regards and holiday greetings to the prime minister and the foreign minister.

[Dan] That is a diplomatic answer. It is hard for me to believe that Baker invited you to a meeting in order to convey to you holiday greetings for the prime minister.

[Shoval] The U.S. secretary of state has been conducting a series of meetings these days—in fact, in recent weeks—with various representatives of countries that participated in the coalition and with other Middle East states in order to clarify issues linked to the situation in the wake of the war and to the peace process. It is only natural that within the framework of these meetings, he should invite the Israeli ambassador.

[Friedman] Did he raise new U.S. ideas to solve the conflict in the region?

[Shoval] No, we discussed various ideas and issues already raised in the past, within what I would call the framework of clarifications and amplifications, but nothing beyond that.

[Dan] You did not get the feeling that there is a general U.S. expectation of Israel to provide something that can be worked with, some sort of gestures, as has been reported?

[Shoval] I saw various reports in the Israeli press, but any connection between them and reality is merely coincidental. We are not facing a situation in which somebody is presenting us with questions to which we must provide answers or is applying direct or indirect pressure. We are really in a process of clarifications between two friendly, close states, whose relationship greatly improved in recent months. This is the way it should be seen. It was not the first meeting and will certainly not be the last.

[Friedman] Foreign Minister David Levi said this week that Israel would be prepared to consider positively

negotiations with a Jordanian delegation that would include Palestinian representatives. Is that position seen in the United States as an extraordinary gesture?

[Shoval] I do not know. I cannot go into the contents of the talks, and I did not hear the foreign minister's interview. The idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was already raised in the Camp David accords, however, as well as later on. It has a certain logic, because Jordan cannot—even if it wanted to—cut itself off from the Palestinian issue, but the issue is complex. In principle, I assume that it is acceptable to Israel and others.

[Dan] We understand that we will not be hearing many details from you, but can you say that the Americans have any plan whatsoever that they are trying to advance?

[Shoval] No, the Americans do not have a specific plan, and that was said by Secretary Baker himself during his visit to Israel. As you certainly recall, he declared that he has no formulated plan and also not what he called a blueprint [previous word in English], but ideas. He wants to hear from us and the other sides in the region.

[Dan] When you return to Washington, will Secretary Baker be able to hear from you something beyond greetings from the prime minister?

[Shoval] That in itself is something positive, but I cannot make any forecasts, because I have not yet met with the prime minister and foreign minister. I will do so in the next few hours.

[Dan] What I wanted to ask is whether Baker is expecting any answers from Jerusalem.

[Shoval] No, as I said before, I have not come with a list of questions. That is the situation.

[Dan] We extend holiday greetings to you.

[Shoval] Thank you, and we will be in touch.

Brings Baker Message for Shamir

TA2803113791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval, met this morning in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister David Levi. Shoval has just returned from the United States for a holiday leave. Before his departure from Washington he met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The American secretary had given Ambassador Shoval a message for Prime Minister Shamir on the peace process. Baker wants the idea of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation renewed.

Ne'eman: U.S. Harms Struggle Against Terrorism

TA2703131091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 27 mar 91

[Excerpts] The settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria will continue despite the terror attacks, Minister Yuval Ne'eman said today at the funeral of Ya'ir Mendelson, who was murdered last night by shots fired at him near the village of 'Ayn Qiniya. Our correspondent Eyal Lavi is attending the funeral in Jerusalem, and here is his live report:

[Passage omitted] Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who represented the government at the funeral, criticized the United States for making the struggle against the murderers harder. The shots that were fired last night, he said, are linked to the Scuds that fell on Tel Aviv, and the knives and the stones in Jerusalem.

[Begin Ne'eman recording] We are fighting this with our hands tied. I will say it here: They are tied by our best of friends—the United States. For some reason, it ignores the terrorism and attacks and looks for gestures from us. The reason it is so difficult to fight this war is because our hands are tied. [end recording]

Minister Ne'eman also promised that many other settlements will be set up around the settlement of Dolev, and that the government will continue the settlement drive. He said that the 250,000 Jews who currently reside beyond the Green Line will become 0.5 million in the next few years. [passage omitted]

Nabil Sha'th To Head PLO Team in U.S. Talks

TA2703150791 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic
25 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, will head the Palestinian delegation in the dialogue with the United States, which is expected to be resumed at the end of next month. The meetings will be held in Cairo, where Ambassador Pelletreau is to be transferred as the U.S. ambassador to the Egyptian capital.

Levi Favors 'Every Option' for Regional Meeting

TA2703172691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Shlomo Ganor on 27 March in Levi's Jerusalem bureau—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Mr. Levi, are we close to a regional conference in Cairo?

[Levi] It depends on what is meant by a regional conference. Everyone has been trying to imbue it with content to which Israel objects. I have been asked: Will Israel be ready to meet with a group of Arab countries from this region? I said: Yes. I said the possibilities include talks with a group of all the Arab countries at the same time;

or with each Arab country separately; with the inclusion of Jordan; with the inclusion of the population of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza; with the inclusion of a Jordanian delegation comprising delegates from Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, too. Thus, Israel has expressed consent to every option as long as it embarks on the path of peace. If the talks refer to the region, may all its participants be blessed.

I hope the other parties will respond to the call, and that Israel will not be grilled daily with regard to its intentions; I hope the other side will prove that it, too, desires peace.

Peres Criticizes Government Failures, Rabin

TA2703151291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres this afternoon criticized the government, saying that it has failed in the fields of personal security and immigrant absorption, and that it has stopped the political process. Had the Alignment stayed in the government, it would have been an accomplice to all of Shamir's failures.

Peres also leveled harsh criticism at his party rival, Yitzhaq Rabin, without explicitly naming him. He said that whoever does not accept the party's decisions should quit it. One cannot compete all the time, Peres said. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres made these remarks at a conference of the Labor Party's Central Committee. A committee to prepare the party's convention was elected at the beginning of today's conference. The convention is scheduled for November in Jerusalem.

Arab Stabbed to Death in East Jerusalem

TA2803051691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] In East Jerusalem, a 45-year-old Arab was stabbed to death last night. His body was found lying in the street. The motive for the killing has not been established, but a Voice of Israel reporter says that a number of Arab residents of Ra's al-'Amud have recently been attacked for allegedly helping Israeli authorities.

In another development, there was another shooting incident on an Israeli vehicle last night. The incident took place in the Hebron Hills. No one was hurt. A curfew was placed on the village of Sammu', not far from where the incident took place.

Elderly Man Stabbed in Jerusalem's Old City

TA2803102491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] A Jewish man of about 70 was stabbed approximately 30 minutes ago in Shalshet Street in Jerusalem's Old City. The man, a resident of western Jerusalem, sustained medium wounds. He was stabbed from behind

while walking in the street. The wounded man was given first aid near the Western Wall and was then taken to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police closed the Old City gates and began a wide-ranging manhunt for the perpetrator. Dozens of suspects were detained. The gates were reopened after a short time.

Youth Killed, 28 Hurt During 'Serious' Riots

TA2803114191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] A 15-year-old youth from Bethlehem was captured this morning in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood with two knives on his person. In an initial interrogation, the youth admitted that he had planned to stab Jews in the area.

In serious disturbances in Rafah this morning, a 12-year-old boy was killed and 28 people were wounded, of whom 23 have already been sent home. The boy's relatives snatched his body from the hospital and buried it. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of his death. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the unrest in the town began when the inhabitants learned that a 20-year-old man died after being shot by Israeli soldiers. All the shops in Rafah and Khan Yunus were shuttered as a sign of mourning.

Two firebombs were hurled at Border Police patrols in Rafah this morning. Nobody was hurt.

Defense Minister on Military Response to Violence

TA2803134491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Commenting on today's stabbing incident in Jerusalem, Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen said that the casbah and the Arab market in the Old City of Jerusalem must be demolished at once, because it is impossible that the road to the Western Wall be crisscrossing alleyways that, according to her, serve as a hot bed for knifers.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens ordered the Army to set up a settlement manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers on the site where Ya'ir Mendelson was murdered two days ago. The defense minister told this to the residents of the settlement of Dolev who met him in his office.

The defense minister criticized those who claim that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] hands are tied in its struggle against violence. He said that the main task the IDF is facing today is confronting the violence in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The defense minister also authorized a march from Bet El to Dolev to be held during the holidays, which would pass the murder site.

Steps To Ease Life in Territories Described*TA2803115091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
28 Mar 91 p 1***[Report by army affairs correspondent On Levi]**

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens is considering proposals and steps presented to him by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and by the coordinator of government activities in the territories. These steps are designed to pave the way to holding negotiations with the Palestinians and to make life easier for the residents of the territories. The steps discussed include the establishment of an ad hoc committee in Gaza city and in some of the refugee camps; the withdrawal of the IDF from a number of refugee camps in an attempt to permit the committees to try to restore life to normal; the reopening of universities; a loosening of the restrictions governing the registration of Ottoman societies; and the release of prisoners from jails and a freeze on administrative detentions. In addition, the government will demand approximately \$3 billion in international economic aid in order to rehabilitate the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and create jobs in the territories. The proposals were consolidated in light of a request from U.S. Secretary of State Baker, among other reasons.

During his recent visit, Baker asked Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens to formulate a position and to present the Americans with several proposed gestures with the aim of creating an atmosphere conducive to the launching of talks on resolving the Palestinian problem. The Israelis promised the secretary of state that they would consider and examine the matter, and then informed the United States that they had begun to prepare the proposed measures.

Senior military sources told DAVAR over the weekend that the conditions in the field now appear ripe for implementing the proposals, adding that the recommendations had been handed over to the defense minister. The sources claimed that in numerous talks with residents of the territories, they had discovered a readiness to start the process of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria and the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip have finished consolidating their recommendations and positions.

Among other things, the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip is looking into the possibility of establishing ad hoc committees in Gaza city and in a number of refugee camps. Gaza city has been without a municipality for several years, ever since the municipality headed by Rashad al-Shawwa was dispersed. The municipality is managed by an Arab official appointed by the Civil Administration.

Another proposal being examined is pulling the IDF out of a number of refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank in order to permit the ad hoc committees to run life in the camps without Army intervention,

while under the supervision of the Civil Administration. Senior Army sources said that the heads of the refugee camps claim that they have the ability to do this.

The IDF is even considering the reopening of universities in Judaea and Samaria and al-Azhar College in the Gaza Strip, which has been closed since September 1987. Senior Army sources claim that the IDF had in the past expressed willingness to reopen some of the universities, but had wanted to make sure that they would not serve as a focus of disturbances. In the past, student leaders said that they could not guarantee quiet, but today they claim that they can prevent unrest.

Another recommendation deals with streamlining the registration process of Ottoman societies. These organizations are involved in public affairs, and their activity will permit the "growth" of public figures with whom Israel will be able to deal in the future. The possibility of a mass release of detainees as a gesture of goodwill and a freeze on administrative detentions is also being examined.

Increased Settlement in Jerusalem Planned*TA2803051191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 28 Mar 91*

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem has decided to act to increase the number of immigrants settling in the city. A detailed plan is to be prepared within a month. Jerusalem is to be given priority development status to encourage industrial research and development, and the 'Atarot industrial zone will be considered an A zone development area.

Tulkarm Mayor Assails Sinyurah Elections Proposal*TA2703174691 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
27 Mar 91 p 8*

[Article by Tulkarm mayor Hilmi Hanun: "Elections and the Palestine National Council"]

[Text] Hanna Sinyurah wrote an article in AL-FAJR's 25 March issue in which he discussed the subject of elections in the occupied territories. Mr. Sinyurah seemed very enthusiastic about this issue, and perceived in it an idea that could be linked to the available political possibilities of a settlement in the region.

I ask: What connection is there between the proposed elections and the alleged possibilities for a peaceful settlement? What is the benefit of these elections if the Palestinian people's representative is present in the arena and enjoys broad popular support from our Palestinian people, both inside and outside the territories? This is a fact known by everyone: The sole legitimate representative is the PLO.

As to the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the idea of choosing a new council in which half the delegates would come from the occupied territories, the first PNC, which convened in Jerusalem in 1964, included members from inside the territories, including elected mayors

and heads of chambers of commerce, personalities, and notables. After the 1967 war, these members could not attend the PNC's subsequent sessions, despite having been officially invited, because they were banned by the occupation authorities.

If elections for membership in the PNC are held, these elections should be conducted both inside and outside the territories, because our people are an indivisible whole and because Palestine is for all Palestinians. A solution of the problem requires the participation of all Palestinians. As for holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the present circumstances and in the shadow of numerous initiatives, this is rejected and unjustified. The international legitimacy which the West, especially the United States, applied in the Gulf crisis is the same international legitimacy that acknowledges the Palestinian people's rights. Moreover, the United Nations recognizes the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and has granted it observer status. We must consistently stress this in the face of suspect moves to create alternatives to our legitimate representative, the PLO.

We have the right to ask: What are these initiatives for, which are being presented to us from this place and that place, such as Israel's initiative of 1989, U.S. and European initiatives, and other Arab and Egyptian initiatives? In my opinion, these initiatives have no value because of UN Resolutions 181, 242, and 338 and many other resolutions which acknowledge the Palestinian people's rights. Why is international legitimacy, represented in these resolutions, not applied like the resolutions on the Gulf crisis? Or is it that the enemies of the Palestinian people want to circumvent these resolutions and render them ineffective? The proposed elections and the numerous initiatives are but attempts to bypass our leadership, which has been recognized by the international community as the sole legitimate representative. If we want a solution to this problem, there is no alternative but to deal with the PLO on the basis that it is an active partner in negotiations to be conducted under international auspices. These negotiations should lead to the achievement of rights, the application of international legitimacy, and the implementation of UN and Security Council resolutions.

I candidly say that the United States, which considers itself to be the master of the world and the defender of human rights, is the one that stands against the victimized Palestinian people and puts the cart before the horse. It now faces a difficult test if it really wants to prove its goodwill. Either the United States applies international legitimacy in Palestine and looks at all issues with the same perspective, or it continues to remain biased toward Israel and adds another proof of its lack of credibility in dealing with nations. O United States, is there a way of realizing international legitimacy?

Islamic Movement Issues Statement on Land Day

TA2703184591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The Islamic Movement in Israel has announced that it is waiving the right of its representatives to make speeches in the festivities to be held on Land Day, which falls this Saturday. The Islamic Movement has issued a statement in which it expressed its dissatisfaction with the attempt by some elements in the Arab sector to transform Land Day into a day for speeches and for the creation of problems and disagreements. The movement stressed that it will distribute 1,000 olive seedlings for cultivation on Land Day, in order that this year's celebrations be used for land reclamation.

Survey Studies Changes in Attitudes Toward Arabs

TA2703112491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
27 Mar 91 p 7

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Gulf war has resulted in a drop in the readiness of Israelis to conduct negotiations with the PLO or to give up territories within the framework of a peace agreement. On the other hand, it brought in its wake an increase in support for democratic values. This was reported yesterday by Professor Efrayim Ya'ar, the dean of Tel Aviv University's Social Sciences Faculty, based on a survey conducted by the Israel Institute for Democracy.

Prof. Ya'ar said that the first part of the survey was conducted in December before the outbreak of the Gulf war, while the second part was conducted after the missile attacks on Israel. The idea behind this division was to gauge the effects of the war on public views.

According to the data, changes did indeed occur. In December, 30.7 of the interviewees expressed willingness to cede parts or most of the territories, whereas in late January 1991 only 26 percent supported that position. In December, 53.5 percent were prepared for Israel to conduct negotiations with the PLO. In January, that figure dropped to 44.7 percent.

As a counterbalance to these findings, which indicate a certain radicalization in Israeli views on the conflict, the survey showed that during the month of the war, 58.1 percent of those polled identified with democratic values, compared with 48.5 before; furthermore, support for a strong leader acting outside the parliamentary framework declined, as did the weight of those who supported restricting democratic liberties.

It was also found out that the attitude toward Israeli Arabs improved. The percentage of those who object to the notion of encouraging Israeli Arabs to emigrate rose from 26.7 to 35.8. Before the war, approximately 27.5 percent did not agree with the view that Israeli Arabs threaten state security, compared with 31.4 percent after the war.

These statistics conflict with academic textbook predictions and norms. The surveyors, Professor Yochman and Professor Yohanan Peres from the Sociology Department at Tel Aviv University, discovered that more residents of areas that had been hit by the missiles showed an increase in support for democratic institutions and values than did people in areas that were unaffected.

Navy Blows Up 'Suspicious' Boat Off Lebanon

TA2803050091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[Text] According to news agency reports from Lebanon, two terrorists were said to be on board a rubber dinghy intending to carry out a suicide attack against one of the Israeli Navy ships which regularly patrols off the south Lebanese coast. The men approached the naval vessel last night, it said, and then the boat blew up—all this according to news agency reports from Lebanon.

UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] sources in south Lebanon confirm an explosion and the sounds of gunfire off the coast of Tyre and said the area was lit up by flares. However, Israeli military sources have a different story as to what happened out at sea. I am told that an Israeli Navy Dabur patrol did indeed spot a suspicious vessel off the Lebanese coast south of Tyre shortly before midnight. Carrying out their usual careful long distance reconnaissance of the craft, the sailors on the Dabur saw that there was a fishing boat, it was lit up, and apparently it was deserted. Since the craft raised their suspicions, since there was no sign of life on board, following regular procedure, the Navy vessel opened up fire. There was a tremendous explosion afterwards; the fishing boat went up. This could account for the explosion and the firing which UNIFIL sources say their people heard on land near the area. However, it does not necessarily mean, I'm told, that in fact there was any attempt to carry out a suicide attack on an Israeli Navy ship. What could have happened is that an attempt to carry arms from one part of Lebanon to another may have been thwarted or detected by the Navy patrol vessel, and it was this which in fact led to the subsequent firing and explosion.

Outgoing Commander Reviews Situation in North

TA2703111591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 27 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Haifa—The danger of military conflict with Syria is likely to remain as long as Syria continues to assert its right to the Golan Heights, outgoing head of Northern Command, Maj.-Gen. Yosi Peled, told reporters here yesterday.

He said the underlying cause for the Israeli-Syrian conflict has not been resolved, and as long as Syria has not received what it feels it should, the possibility of confrontation exists.

Thus, despite the winds of change blowing over the region since the Gulf war, Israel could not afford to relax its guard regarding Syria, he stressed.

Peled, who was hosted at the Haifa Press Club, noted that Syria had received large sums of money for its participation in the coalition against Iraq, part of which it had promptly spent on more armaments.

Peled maintained that despite the threat, war with Syria was not imminent. It depended to a large extent on Israel's deterrent ability. If the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] projected and proved itself a high-quality army, there was a good chance of preventing the Syrians from embarking on adventurous actions.

On southern Lebanon, he said that in order to ensure the security of residents of northern Israel and the security zone, the present situation was likely to remain unchanged for many years.

"I don't believe there is any body in Lebanon or any outside agency that is capable of changing the basic situation in Lebanon," he said.

Peled said he had been overwhelmed by the praise and thanks heaped on him by residents and council heads in the north for his work as head of northern command for the past five years. The praise, however, was due to the young soldiers on the ground, he said.

He noted that 61 soldiers had died inside and north of the security zone since the IDF withdrew from the rest of Lebanon in May 1985. Over 200 had been wounded, among them some who had been crippled for life during the same period.

The South Lebanese Army [SLA], Peled said, is today the strongest and most efficient fighting force in Lebanon, with the exception of the Syrian army and the IDF.

He noted that Israel had invested tens of millions of dollars on developing and improving health, welfare, educational and municipal services inside the zone, while thousands of residents earned their livelihood by working in Israel.

[A related report by Yehuda Goren and Re'uven Ben-Tzvi on page A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 27 March says that "in tete-a-tete meetings held yesterday in the security zone, senior IDF officers attempted to allay the fears of SLA personnel regarding a possible imminent IDF pullout from the zone in light of the expected settlements in the Middle East, 'at which time both we and our families will be slaughtered for having collaborated with Israel.'"

["The SLA officers and troops were told in no uncertain terms that 'when and if Israel evacuates the security strip—

an unlikely event in the foreseeable future—this will only occur after the personal safety of all those who were members of the security forces has been guaranteed beyond any doubt. [no end quotation marks as published]

["Israel will likewise demand that all the terrorist organizations and militias in Lebanon be disarmed, that a sovereign Lebanese Government and Army be established, and more."]

Government Offices Report Economic Difficulties

Foreign Debt Increased in 1990

TA2203120991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 22 Mar 91 p 21

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Israel's foreign debt grew by NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 260 million last year, as increased economic activity, as well as liberalization of foreign-currency rules, pushed up private-sector borrowing from abroad.

The increase in foreign debt, which only made itself felt in the last quarter of the year, reverses the steady decrease demonstrated since 1987. In the fourth quarter of 1990, Israel's foreign debt grew by \$640m., as private-sector foreign debt alone showed an increase of \$500m.

At the end of 1990, total foreign debt stood at \$24.1 billion, with public sector debt at \$16.8b, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

The increase in private-sector borrowing from abroad was accompanied by a trend toward short-term borrowing.

Unemployment Rose 11 Percent

TA2603113391 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Mar 91 p B2

[Report by Yosi Grinstein]

[Text] In 1990, 158,000 people were registered as unemployed, constituting an 11 percent rise, versus a 42

percent rise in 1989. This data was released yesterday by the spokesman of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Unemployment rate stood at 9.6 percent, versus 8.9 percent in 1989 and 6.4 percent in 1988. Unemployment stood at 8.4 percent among men and 11.3 among women. The total number of employees (not including residents of the territories) stood at 1,492,000, a rise of 2.1 percent, which followed a rise of 1.5 percent in 1989.

1.7 Billion Shekel War Loss Seen

TA2703102391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Mar 91 p C1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Excerpt] The Israeli economy suffered a 1.7 billion shekel [approximately \$750 million] loss during the months of the Gulf war. This constitutes a 1.7-percent drop in the gross national product, due mainly to the slowdown in the construction and tourism sectors, as well as in other sectors that supply consumer goods and services to the local market. This emerges from a Bank of Israel report on the economic developments of the past few months, published yesterday.

Following an almost total paralysis during the initial days of the fighting, the construction branch recovered between 30 and 40 percent of its prewar scope. There was also limited development in that field during the month of March due to the absence of laborers from the territories.

The report points out that January saw a drop in tourism to Israel unparalleled since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The decline in local demand during the war led to hardship in the clothing, footwear, furniture, and personal services branches. A recovery in sales was noted at the end of the war. The report also notes that the difficulties in international transportation and the rise in insurance rates contributed to foreign trade hardships during the war. Nonetheless, the January-February commercial statistics did not show a sizable drop. During that period, the average industrial export level was lower by approximately 3.5 percent than the average in the previous quarter. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Receives French Assembly President

NC2703204491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stressed that the international and regional circumstances provide an opportunity for all parties concerned to work for the success of a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He noted that only the Palestinian leadership has the right to speak for the Palestinian people in the peace efforts.

This was said when his majesty received French National Assembly President Laurent Fabius at al-Nadwah Palace today. During the meeting, his majesty reviewed the effects of the Gulf war on Jordan, which is considered one of the states most affected. A comprehensive review was also held on the latest developments in the Middle East region in light of the Gulf war's results and dimensions.

Mr. Fabius stressed France's interest in containing the repercussions of the Gulf war, and its persistent efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis. He also expressed his country's concern about bolstering and promoting the relations of joint cooperation between Jordan and France in all fields.

Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court chief, Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister, and the French ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Prince Hasan Returns From Canada, UK, U.S. Visits

NC2703153491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn welcomed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Royal Highness Princess Tharwat when they returned to Amman last night following working visits his royal highness made to the United Kingdom and Canada, followed by another private visit to the U.S. city of San Francisco. The three visits lasted 10 days.

In London, his royal highness met with Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. In Ottawa, he met with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs. He also met with a number of members of the External Relations Committee at the Canadian Parliament.

During these meetings, his royal highness discussed Middle East developments and ways to achieve a just and durable peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

His royal highness delivered a lecture at Oxford University in London on the economic and human aspects of the Gulf war.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan also made a private visit to the U.S. city of San Francisco where he delivered a speech at a nongovernmental conference on the alternatives currently under consideration for security, cooperation, and development in the Middle East region in the post-Gulf war era. In his speech, his royal highness reviewed the political alternatives being considered and urged that uniform standards be applied to tackle regional conflicts within the framework of international legality, foremost among which are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

In San Francisco, his royal highness also met with the Jordanian community, members of the Arab-American Chamber of Commerce on the West coast, and a number of businessmen and industrialists. In his meetings with them he reviewed Middle East developments, the repercussions of the Gulf war, prospects for possible peaceful solutions, the current economic and social situation, and Jordan's assessment of them.

His royal highness was also welcomed upon his return to Amman by His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn, Her Royal Highness 'Aliyah al-Faysal, His Royal Highness Talal Bin-Muhammad, the prime minister, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the chief chamberlain, the king's private secretary, the chairman of the Royal Society for Islamic Civilization Research, the chief of staff, his eminence the chief justice, and a number of officials. Also on hand at the airport to receive his royal highness were the British and Canadian ambassadors as well as the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

Radio Reports Prince Hasan AL-AHRAM Interview

NC2703184591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Excerpts] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the resumption of contacts between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerns the relationship between the two leaders, something which he cannot answer on their behalf. He stressed that the intimate personal relationship between them over the years before the Gulf crisis is an asset that should be safeguarded.

In an interview with the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM published in yesterday's issue, his highness added that the divisions in inter-Arab relations the Gulf crisis caused is a pan-Arab catastrophe by all standards. He said that not moving beyond the recent tragic past will exacerbate the effects of the catastrophe and will not eliminate them. He added that the historic responsibility of Arab peoples and leaders is to settle differences and dress wounds to safeguard our nation's higher interests. He said: His Majesty King Husayn has called for closing ranks because what happened is a chapter that has ended and must give way to a new chapter in the march of our

Arab nation, during which it will restore confidence among leaders and amity among peoples. [passage omitted]

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan praised the strong Jordanian-U.S. relations over the past 30 years. He said: They have been relations of friendship, understanding, and cooperation, but they were affected by the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that the contacts that have begun are a step in the right direction to restore relations, because they have always been in the interest of the two states. He said that despite the crisis, these relations have continued and the crisis was not able to torpedo them. [passage omitted]

Abu-Qurah Stresses Need for Assistance to Iraq

NC2703193091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—President of the Standing Committee of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Ahmad Abu-Qurah Tuesday received in his office delegations representing the Red Cross societies in Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and the U.S. Earthstewards Organisation and discussed with them the services they can provide to Iraq to help the Iraqi people under the current circumstances.

Abu-Qurah stressed in separate meetings with these delegations the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society's interest in providing the necessary facilities for such teams to enable them to render humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq.

Following his meetings with them, Abu-Qurah said that these delegations would visit Iraq Wednesday for talks with Iraqi Red Crescent officials aimed at assessing humanitarian needs under these circumstances.

In his meeting with the U.S. Earthstewards Organisation and the Gulf Humanitarian Relief Team, currently on a visit to Jordan, Abu-Qurah briefed them on the JNRCS's humanitarian efforts since the onset of the Gulf crisis on Aug. 2.

Australian Ship Heading to Al-'Aqabah Intercepted

NC2703190491 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 27 Mar 91
pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Amman—Yesterday, French frigate number D630 prevented a ship, which was coming directly from Australian ports and carrying about 56,000 head of Australian sheep, from passing through the Straits of Tiran in the Red Sea on its way to the port of al-'Aqabah. The commander of the French frigate claimed that the bill of lading is not clear. Since yesterday morning, intense efforts by several interests in Amman were made at the French Embassy and its military attache to guarantee the passage of the ship Coridal Express [name as published], which flies the Phillipine

flag, to its final destination at the port of al-'Aqabah and empty its cargo imported by Hijazi and Ghawshah foodstuff company.

Shipping sources in al-'Aqabah said that the commander of the French frigate asked for a documented government certificate that proves the cargo will not be re-exported, and that the cargo is imported for the consumption of the Jordanian market only. Then the ship will be allowed to sail to the port of al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

Air Force Jet Crashes; Pilot Ejects Safely

JN2803092691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28-29 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Jordanian Royal Airforce said Wednesday that it lost one of its planes during exercises held at night. An official spokesman said that the plane went down due to a technical failure while taking part in a night exercise with several other Air Force jets in southern Jordan, but the pilot ejected safely. The spokesman said that the crash took place Tuesday, March 26, 1991.

Arabs Urged To Close Ranks Before Bush Visit

NC2303132491 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
23 Mar 91 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Bush...and the Upcoming Tour of the Middle East"]

[Text] As the White House draws up a program for President George Bush's expected tour of the Middle East after 'Id al-Fitr and as the U.S. President himself expresses eagerness to visit the region where he hopes he will be able to move matters forward, there have been no indications of a serious Arab effort to close ranks and prepare a program of joint action on how the Arabs will deal with expected American moves.

If this situation does not change, Bush's tour may further entrench and aggravate the axes and divisions that emerged within the Arab body during the Gulf war.

Bush said he does not want his visit to be a mere victory tour. We would like the U.S. President to understand that the victory which dominates his thoughts and words is viewed by Arabs as a massacre intended to undermine Arab strength under the cover of the Gulf crisis. Bush must moderate his language, which sows bitterness in the hearts of the Arab masses and shows that his thirst for revenge has exceeded all reasonable bounds.

It is important to say frankly that if the tour is designed to inflame the illusory sense of victory felt by some Arabs and to sharpen the sense of defeat felt by other Arabs, then such a tour will be a continuation of the destruction that was carried out by the American-Atlantic forces in the Arab arena. It is important here to remember His Majesty King Husayn's call for healing Arab wounds, rising above vengeance, and quickly turning over a new

leaf on the Arab level. There is no doubt that if they respond to this wise call, the Arabs will not be lulled into playing the game of dividing Arabs into victors and vanquished.

If President Bush wants his tour to activate the peace process in the region, then he should remember that such an activation must be based on a commitment to applying international legitimacy to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute. Such a commitment requires serious action and ensuring that the Israeli aggressors are not rewarded in any way. President Bush would also be well advised to remember that any Israeli involvement in determining the future of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people is in stark contradiction to his statements during the Gulf war to the effect that the aggressor cannot be rewarded, an argument he used to justify his refusal to hold negotiations with Iraq.

The Arabs have long been trying to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region, while Washington has long tried to block these efforts to please Israel. Of course, no one can reject any U.S. attempt to work sincerely in this direction. The considerable loss of U.S. credibility, however, raises many doubts about its intentions.

The pursuit of peace will remain one of Jordan's pillars. Jordan believes that real peace cannot be achieved unless there is joint Arab action in which the Palestinians play a key role, as King Husayn reaffirmed during an interview with NBC television a few days ago.

President Bush's upcoming tour of the Middle East requires vigilance on the part of all Arabs. It should also prompt them to close ranks if they want to play a role in shaping the future of their region.

U.S. Said To Prevent Aid From Reaching Iraq

NC2803084591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Mar 91 p 3

[By "staff reporter" P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—U.S. customs and export control authorities are making it difficult for various humanitarian organisations to send relief supplies and medicine which could possibly find their way to Iraq to the extent that even Jordan-bound medicines are being held up, according to relief agency representatives.

A prominent human rights activist has described the U.S. policy on aid to Iraq as "barbaric."

The latest consignment to be delayed at Kennedy International Airport, New York, was 2,000 pounds (almost one tonne) of antibiotics and hospital supplies specially requested by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCs) for exclusive use in Jordan, the head of an American humanitarian organisation said Tuesday.

The authorities insisted on a special licence for the export of the consignment to Jordan, thus forcing a delegation from the organisation, Earthstewards Network based in Seattle, Washington, to leave behind the shipment and head for Jordan Saturday, said Danaan Parry, director of Earthstewards who is now in Amman.

"The entire consignment, worth about \$100,000, is for exclusive use in Jordan and specifically requested by the Red Crescent," Mr. Parry told the Jordan Times.

The shipment was raised with contributions collected by two American organisations—"Peace Table" and "Gulf Humanitarian Relief"—Mr. Parry said.

Earthstewards, an international organisation which maintains worldwide chapters, is focusing its attention on extending help to Jordanians, mostly expatriates who have been forced to return to the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis, Mr. Parry explained.

Lawyers and clearing agents were trying to clear the process of shipping the consignment to Jordan, and it was believed that the authorities had given the green light by Tuesday.

An Earthsteward doctor will be accompanying the shipment, Mr. Parry said.

Her Majesty Queen Nur Monday met with the Earthstewards delegation, currently visiting Jordan, and reviewed with them the effects of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian society, and discussed ways through which help could be extended to those affected.

The delegation is trying to obtain detailed information on Jordan's actual needs and "go back and try to work on them at home," Mr. Parry said. The delegation will be meeting with the minister of industry and trade as well as the head of the al-Aqabah port before its departure from Jordan on April 6.

Lawyers representing another humanitarian group, Fellowship for Reconciliation—a church-affiliated organisation which has been sending medicine and hospital supplies to Iraq ever since the Gulf crisis erupted and the U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq—meanwhile managed to clear a 5,000-pound (about 2.5 tonnes) shipment of medicine and hospital supplies to be sent to Iraq, reports from the U.N. said.

The fellowship consignment was also held up at New York on Saturday, a few hours before it was destined to be loaded aboard a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft bound for Amman.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation had planned to challenge U.S. regulations in court if the authorities had not granted a licence for export of the shipment, according to the group's lawyers.

"The very concept of the U.S. government licensing humanitarian shipments is outrageous and immoral and

it is time for us to rethink that whole policy," Douglas Hostetter, head of the organisation, was quoted as saying Monday.

A lawyer for the group said that "our ultimate goal is to have the United States government pull out of the business of saying who can and cannot provide assistance and in what way."

The administration also came under fire from human rights activist Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. attorney general, who accused Washington of deliberately trying to keep aid from Iraq.

"For the United States of America, which inflicted the harm in the first place... for it to then have the cruelty and audacity to seize medical supplies going to the sick is barbaric," Mr. Clark told a press conference in New York, according to the associated Press.

Mr. Clark visited Iraq in February and reported that the Iraqis were in dire needs of essential supplies. He said Monday he believed at least 25,000 Iraqis had been killed in the war and "thousands and thousands" more injured.

The U.N. Security Council Friday effectively lifted an embargo on food and other essential supplies to Iraq, but other restrictions remain in place.

Medicines are exempt from the trade embargo that remains in effect.

U.S. rules require donors to declare the contents of medical shipments and the recipients. Those who fail to comply face fines of up to \$1 million and prison sentences of up to three years. In the case of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Jordanian National Red Crescent was to distribute the aid to the Iraqi Red Crescent and to a children's hospital in Baghdad.

Legality of UNSC Draft Resolution Questioned

JN2803095591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Draft Should Be Aborted"]

[Text] The U.S. has submitted a draft resolution to the UN Security Council demanding that Iraq pay reparations estimated at tens, probably hundreds, of billions of dollars and accept the destruction of its ballistic missile systems and weapons of mass destruction in return for the removal of UN sanctions against Baghdad. The draft resolution, whose legal aspects and political implications are clearly questionable and controversial, also demands that Iraq accept the demarcation of border with Kuwait as it was prior to Aug 2.

As Iraqi forces are totally out of Kuwait, and Baghdad has accepted all Security Council resolutions pertaining

to the Kuwaiti issue, you would think that the UN mandate given to the United States and its allies to implement council resolutions has formally ended. But unfortunately this seems to be nowhere near the case here.

In accordance with the rules of the international Court of Justice in the Hague, a nation that causes damages to another as a result of war activity should pay reparations. The court rules that compensation should be paid if the aggressor has committed actions considered as war crimes like the destruction of private and public property and villages and cities of the other country. Since it can be argued that it was the United States and its Western allies that wrought such destruction on Iraq, the matter should be left to the Hague court to rule on the issue of reparations.

With regard to the question of destroying Iraq's weapons, we can only see an outright interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a means to deprive the Arab country of the only means to defend itself (against countries bigger and more ambitious than Kuwait of course) at a time when the whole world realises that the Iraqis refrained from using any weapons of mass destruction during their defensive operations, if only because the other side did not.

Following World War II, the victorious powers chose not to impose any harsh and humiliating measures on defeated Japan, Germany or Italy similar to those imposed after World War I, so as not to recreate conditions similar to those that led to the emergence of Nazi Germany, which consequently resulted in World War II. If Iraq is proved by the Court of Justice not to have committed war crimes, how can the United States and its allies make assumptions in advance and introduce, through the Security Council, harsh measures which indeed should be applied against those who carried out crimes against humanity and the civilian population of Iraq?

Again, since the war in the Gulf was caused largely by a border dispute between Iraq and its neighbour, the Security Council has no jurisdiction under the UN charter to impose on Iraq or Kuwait a demarcation of their common border. As long as a dispute over territory exists, the International Court of Justice is the only world body that is empowered to settle such a dispute. Besides, UN Resolution 660 calls for negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to settle this and other disputes plaguing them.

Unless the international community realises these facts, and takes steps to act on them fairly and impartially, the world will witness a precedent that would not augur well for future international relations. The draft resolution that was submitted by the U.S. to the Security Council is neither fair nor just, and as such it should be aborted.

Sa'adah, Dib Hold 'Positive' Talks in Damascus

NC2703190691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] A three and a half hour meeting between Ministers George Sa'adah and Roger Dib and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus has been described as positive. The ministers outlined the policies of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces on all developments. The two emphasized their commitment to the letter and spirit of the al-Ta'if agreement, which they stressed should be implemented in its entirety. Sources close to the ministers said Khaddam emphasized that Syria is also committed to the al-Ta'if agreement and its timetable. Khaddam also affirmed that Syria supports and is willing to contribute to the Lebanese Government's efforts to reassert its authority. Syria, he pointed out, was prepared to help in disbanding non-Lebanese militias. Khaddam was said to have indicated that Syria will remain neutral to all parties and that it was prepared to talk to all sides. The talks, added the sources, did not address specifics of internal Lebanese affairs, but covered generalities. Any discussion of specifics will have to be pursued with the Lebanese Government.

A meeting that was slated for 1200 today between Ministers Sa'adah and Dib and the Syrian Chief of Staff Brigadier Hikmat al-Shihabi was called off when their session with Khaddam did not end on schedule. Instead they talked on the telephone.

In the morning, Khaddam had received State Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, who said the Damascus and Beirut talks focused on the key issue of sustaining the momentum of national reconciliation based on the al-Ta'if agreement. Al-Amin stressed the need for its full implementation. While disagreements may arise on procedure, absolutely no one—neither the Phalangists nor any other party—is opposed to its full implementation, al-Amin declared. Whatever differences exist are on timing and priorities, he added.

Upon their return from Damascus, Ministers Sa'adah and Dib conferred with President al-Hirawi and House Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

The Cabinet will convene at 1100 tomorrow to discuss the outcome of the ministers' talks in the Syrian capital and al-Husayni's discussions with them.

Minister Michel al-Murr, who conferred with Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas at al-Yarzah, characterized the ministers' Damascus trip as a positive step that he had long wished would take place.

Syrian Defense Minister Holds Talks With Al-Murr

NC2803091391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of defense, has paid a brief visit to Lebanon, during which he met with Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and minister of national defense. He also inspected the Syrian forces deployed in Beirut.

Minister al-Murr said after the talks: [begin recording] [passage indistinct] The second part of the visit has to do with bilateral talks on military affairs, which of course are not for media coverage. [passage indistinct] Thirdly, he extended an invitation for me to make an official visit to Damascus. I asked him to pay an official visit to Lebanon. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

For his part, Minister Talas said: [begin recording] [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified correspondent] What was your [word indistinct] on the assassination attempt against Minister al-Murr?

[Talas] We denounce such attempts and we are against any terrorist act [words indistinct], especially when they are directed against Lebanese nationalist symbols [words indistinct] I also wanted to greet my colleague Michel [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Meets Head of French Friendship Group

NC2803092691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Deputy Gerard Bapt, head of the Lebanese-French friendship group at the French National Assembly, accompanied by French Deputy [name indistinct], yesterday called on President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi. They reviewed the current developments within the framework of the French official's current exploratory visit.

Deputy Bapt presented President al-Hirawi with an essay he wrote after the formation of the Lebanese Government, in which he stressed the need for the international community to support and help Lebanon, especially after everyone saw the reception which the Lebanese Army met in the South.

World Community Urged To Support Arab Legitimacy
NC2703153191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, it has been announced in occupied Jerusalem that \$500 million has been earmarked to build new settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Israeli Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has disclosed a plan to establish a settlement on the outskirts of Gaza. It is well known that the Gaza Strip is already overcrowded, given its small area. The Israeli step comes in the wake of a series of aggressive statements by enemy leaders in which they emphasized their sure determination to Judaize the occupied territories. Shamir has declared that the Syrian Golan is part of Israel's alleged territory and that there will be no withdrawal from the Golan. Sharon said that Israel should annex significant parts of the West Bank and Gaza in response to the international community's efforts to implement Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Sharon bluntly called for meeting the international community's demands with apathy and going ahead with the policy of repression, displacement, and terrorism against the Palestinian Arabs. Certain enemy officials even went further and called for mass expulsion of the Palestinian people from their land under occupation.

It is obvious that the enemy is turning a deaf ear to the efforts of the U.S. Administration and European countries. Observers consider the intransigent Israeli stands as outright rejection of Washington's ideas, particularly since the enemy government—despite previous announcements to the contrary—are in effect directing the Soviet Jews to settle in the West Bank. The number of settlers has so far exceeded 100,000 Jews, according to the U.S. State Department itself, which accused Israel of giving incorrect information on the settlement of Jews. The U.S. State Department spokeswoman, in response to Israel's position, declared that Secretary of State Baker decided to continue his peaceful efforts under a shroud of secrecy, despite Israeli obstructive decisions.

Paris and London have stressed the need for quick action to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to call an international peace conference in the region. In a message to Perez de Cuellar, Pope John Paul

called for an effective UN commitment to quickly address the Middle East issues. Likewise, the Soviet Union expressed a similar position. These active international moves stem from the need to consecrate the UN credibility and implement the same criteria implemented during the Gulf crisis in addressing the Middle East issues in view of the fact that Israel is trying to circumvent and foil the international efforts through practical measures on the ground and prodding the pressure lobbies loyal to it in the United States and other Western countries.

The enemy's declared stands and his measures show rejection of a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement to the region's crisis. They also affirm insistence on expansion, settlement, and continuing the policy of aggression, repression, and terrorism. While the Arabs proved their compliance with the international community's resolutions and their respect for its principles and charters in their statements, most importantly the Damascus Declaration, and in their practical positions, Israel is confronting this community with stark disdain. Israel is even showing hostility to this community and its principles and charters. Israel rejects peace and every genuine peaceful effort and even the efforts of its friends, primarily the United States, which provides Israel with huge annual aid. In view of this aggressive position, the international community is required to do more than express hopes and declare intentions. As Pope John Paul has declared, the international community is required to uphold an effective commitment toward the region's issues, foremost of which are the Palestinian issue and the occupied Arab territories. Peace and occupation are antonyms that cannot go together. There can be no talk with occupation, suppression, and injustice. There can be no peace unless Israel recognizes the Palestinian people's right to their territory and homeland. There can be no peace unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab land: the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon. The Arabs are not demanding that the international community do more than implement its resolutions and promises and assert its credibility by not using double standards. Asserting credibility does not begin with demanding that the Arabs make concessions regarding their legitimate rights, but with demanding that Israel submit to justice and what is right and with taking the measures that guarantee this submission. The Gulf events have shown that the international community is capable of imposing its will when honest intention is coupled with definite determination.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Message to Khowst Forces

LD2803081291 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0519 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Kabul, March 27, BAKHTAR—The military headquarters in Jaji Meydan District of Khowst Province has sent a message to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and the supreme commander of the RA Armed Forces assuring him of their readiness to rebuff any kinds of aggression by the enemies.

The personnel of the Armed Forces based in Jaji Meydan District, Khowst Province, says the message, are resolute to safeguard every inches of the province against the joint aggression of Pak's military advisers and bellicose extremists.

We also pledge to defend our country to our last breath. The Army detachments in Khowst Province have assured President Najibullah that the enemy will be faced with an absolute defeat.

74 'Extremists' Killed in Khowst Fighting

LD2703182891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Units and companies of the Armed Forces in Khowst District yesterday and today dealt shattering blows to the extremists and Pakistani military advisers. As a result, 74 extremists, including two ringleaders, namely Rasul and Engineer [name indistinct], and one Pakistani adviser were killed, and more than 100 were wounded. These losses were inflicted on the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Khalis.

Also as a result of these strikes several enemy heavy weapons, a large quantity of ammunition, and several hideouts and strongholds were destroyed.

Demonstration Held Outside Pakistani Embassy

LD2703191291 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Personnel of the Ministry of Border Affairs, some chiefs of nationalities and tribes, personnel of the government press, personnel from the Afghan transportation company, and personnel of the prosecution service of national security, gathered in front of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul today to protest and to express their hatred for the direct aggression of the Pakistani military units and militia against Khowst. They view this open aggression by the Pakistani military as contrary to the Geneva accords and international law and seriously ask the Pakistani authorities to stop this aggression against the peace-loving people of Khowst as soon as possible. They also handed over a protest note to the embassy.

The note seriously denounces this provocation by the military authorities of Pakistan and states that the patriotic

forces and peace-loving people of Afghanistan will never desert their Khowst brothers in the face of the barbarous attack by the extremists and Pakistani militarists and will stand by their side in the difficult conditions.

Commentary on Political Power Base in Pakistan

LD2703201691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Dear Pashtun and Baluchi listeners: [passage omitted] Radio Pakistan has reported that Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed the opinion at a meeting with the special envoy of the UN secretary general that Pakistan wants a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. The very simple and obvious means of this expression by the Pakistani president is that he is opposed to a solution of the question of Afghanistan through war and bloodshed and rejects the path of war and violence.

However, when one sees Pakistani tanks, guns, and missiles on the side of the Afghan extremists and war-mongers and sees Pakistani military units and militia directly in the trenches of war, then the belief and utterances of the president become untrue. It also becomes difficult to understand what the Pakistani rulers want and what path the Pakistani military is following.

The president of Pakistan assures the special envoy of the UN secretary general that Pakistan desires a political solution to the question of Afghanistan and is opposed to war, violence, and killing. But the participation of Pakistani tanks, guns, and military units in the war on Khowst as well as the action of Pakistani militarists show a different picture than Ghulam Ishaq Khan's statement. This in fact proves the contradictory character of Pakistan's policy vis-a-vis the problem and question of Afghanistan, and it lays bare the fact that deep discord exists between the rulers of Islamabad and the Pakistani military men regarding the question of Afghanistan. When differences of such a degree concerning a single problem exist between the rulers of a government and its military, it is then without any doubt that such a situation entails dangerous consequences.

If one pays full attention to the Pakistani president's statements, then one can see such soundness of logic in them which are expected by the state and nation of Afghanistan. This is why they are regarded with optimism and why they make the solution of the Afghan problem easy. However, when one looks at the actions of the Pakistani military, then they are treated with doubt.

Western press, BBC, and the Voice of America have published many news reports and documents, saying that in Pakistan, behind the veil, political power is in the hands of the military and the orders of the generals are carried out more effectively than those of the president or the prime minister. If the situation is such, then it is

difficult to believe President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's statement that Pakistan wants a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. Even if this is true, then when the militarists attack Khowst and use guns and tanks in the battle for Khowst, the accuracy of the president's statement becomes far-fetched.

The political power of the militarists and military generals in Pakistan is in fact a legacy from General Ziaul Haq. After the demise and murder of Gen. Ziaul Haq, the generals have not been prepared to let democracy stabilize in Pakistan. [words indistinct] and the Muslim and noble people of Pakistan expressed strong opposition, and demonstrations were even held against it. But the Pakistani generals do not attach value to the (?demands), criticisms, and strikes, and they have not brought back Pakistani soldiers from that war. This could be counted as proof of the militarists' and generals' power in Pakistan.

The reason for the participation of Pakistani guns and Pakistani units in the battle of Khowst is also that the Pakistani military men do not want a political solution to the question of Afghanistan, but are supporting the path of war, violence, and bloodshed. They force the Afghan extremists to continue their futile attacks on Afghanistan's cities and border regions.

Pakistan has still not responded positively to the peace proposals and initiatives based on Islamic and Koranic principles put forward by the president of Afghanistan, Dr. Najibullah. All these proposals and initiatives by the president of Afghanistan ask for a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. They reject the path of violence, war, bloodshed, and the murder of Afghans. If the statements by the president of Pakistan are true, and if he has assured the UN secretary general that Pakistan wants a political solution to the question of Afghanistan, then he should positively answer the proposals put forward by the Republic of Afghanistan and President Najibullah. He should recall the Punjab's mercenary force, guns, and tanks from Khowst and from combat operations.

The words of the president of Pakistan are trustworthy and acceptable by the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. However, when they look at the actions and hostility of the Pakistani militarists, then a doubt enters their minds as to how it is possible that the Pakistani president should ask for a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan, but the Pakistani militarists pursue the path of war and murder, and Pakistani military units, tanks, and guns take part in the killings and murder of Afghans in the battles of Khowst and Jalalabad.

It is a matter of surprise now as to which words may be called true and correct. With what authority are the Pakistani militarists rejecting the words of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan when he demands a political solution to the question of Afghanistan? Now all radios of the world, including the BBC, the VOA, and the Western press have revealed reports and news that Pakistani

militia, army units, guns, tanks, and missiles are engaged in combat against the Afghan armed forces and the courageous people of Khowst and tribal battalions. But President Ghulam Ishaq Khan tells the envoy of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Pakistan wants a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. A deputy secretary in Pakistan's Foreign Ministry quoted by radio Mashhad, has said that a political solution to the question of Afghanistan is in accord with the interests of Pakistan. Should the words of the Pakistani president and Foreign Ministry be believed, or should we believe in the actions of the militarists and Pakistani generals?

Najibullah Issues Decree on Election in Farah

*LD2703193691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Text] The Presidency Press Office reported that the following decree has been issued by esteemed Afghan President Najibullah on the convocation of an election in Constituency No. 141 of the Wolasi Jerga:

1. On the basis of Article 54 of the Election Law for the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, the election should be held from 29 April through 4 May 1991 in constituency No. 141 of Farah Province for the Wolasi Jerga Shura.
2. The executive committee of the delegates council in Farah Province has to set up provincial and local election commissions as well as voting centers.
3. The Council of Ministers should dispatch the necessary amount of money to cover the cost of holding an election in Constituency 141 of Farah Province.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Tribunal Denies Ershad Change of Venue Request

*BK2703161291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Text] In Dhaka today, the senior special judge of the special tribunal hearing the arms case against former President Ershad rejected the defense plea that the accused would not get justice in his court. The accused was present in the court during the period of the hearing. The tribunal also dismissed the apprehension made by the defense lawyer that undue haste was being made in trying the case. The judge said the case was being heard as it has assumed a great national importance. The court then took up the hearing of the prosecution witness. At this stage, the defense counsels pleaded for allowing time to hear from the High Court division about the petition made for transferring the trial from the tribunal.

The tribunal approved its (?request) and fixed the next date of hearing of the arms case on the 2d of next month.

Eight Prisoners Killed in Comilla Jail Revolt

BK2803052891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0516 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Dhaka, March 28 (AFP)—A town jail in eastern Bangladesh was back under control Thursday after a revolt left eight prisoners dead and about 250 inmates and jail employees injured, a local police official said. Prisoners had returned to their cells in Comilla District Jail, the official said.

In a published statement Thursday, the government said eight prisoners were killed when wardens fired Wednesday on rebellious prisoners. Twenty-five jail guards, including the deputy jail superintendent, were injured in the revolt and four prisoners were hospitalized, the statement said.

The Home Ministry Statement said the inmates of the jail in Comilla, 68 kilometer (42 miles) from the capital, demanded better living conditions and the release of all prisoners convicted during the regime of deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad. They took a number of guards hostage and threatened to kill them unless their demands were met, the statement said, adding that some prisoners broke open the main gate and tried to flee, forcing guards to open fire.

An investigation into the incident was ordered, the statement said.

Press reports said armed police moved into the jail, which has approximately 2,000 inmates, and took control after a two-hour battle.

Similar revolts have occurred in most major Bangladeshi jails, including the Dhaka Central Jail, since Mr. Ershad's regime collapsed in December in the face of mass unrest. But the Comilla revolt was the first since Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) became the country's first woman prime minister last week.

The government statement warned against further trouble and said it would not yield to pressure.

"It seemed the motive behind this act of indiscipline was aimed at achieving political ends," the statement said.

Prime Minister Says Mass Media To Be Refocused

BK2703162091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia says the mass media is to be recast and reoriented to people's welfare services instead of (?self)-promotion of any individual or party. For this end, the Ministry of Information will be restructured enabling it to thrash out people's problems through special programs. Begum Khaleda Zia was addressing high officials of the Information Ministry and heads of various departments under the ministry in Dhaka today.

Stressing the need for using the national hookup, including radio and television, [words indistinct] people's activities, she said the media should highlight the programs and policies of the government as well as people-oriented programs, maintaining strict neutrality. The premier sought the cooperation of the mass media and asked the officials to discharge their duty freely and with neutrality, holding high national interests. The media, she said, should objectively project the prevailing situation in the country.

Underlining the importance of discipline in all spheres, Begum Zia warned that stern measures would be taken against those found negligent of duty and indulging in irregularities. Begum Zia also suggested screening documents [words indistinct] projectors in villages to impart knowledge to the rural people about different subjects including agriculture.

The prime minister also stressed on flourishing national culture, heritage and film industry to prevent the aggression of alien culture. Minister of State for Information Nurul Huda and Information Secretary Mohammad Nasiruddin were also present on the occasion.

Government To Pursue Free Market Economy

BK2703162891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan says the present government will pursue a free market economy for rapid industrialization of the country. Talking to the members of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka today, he said the government's role in the economy will be merely complementary. Outlining the present government's industrial policy, he said achieving the desired goals of development through utilizing human resources is the major political objective.

Meanwhile, scheduled banks' requirement of maintaining mandatory cash deposit with Bangladesh Bank has been reduced to 9 percent from existing 10 percent. Bangladesh Bank says the new step will increase the lendable funds of the scheduled banks by about 2,000 crore taka. It is also expected to augment the flow of bank credit in the private sector to generate economic activities. The measure is part of the new government's move to revitalize the economy from the present slump caused by prolonged undemocratic rule in the country.

India**CPI-M Requests Cancellation of Punjab Elections**

BK2803054291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has urged the president to prevail upon the central government not to hold elections in Punjab. The party

leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, met the president yesterday and apprised him of the situation in the state.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee and the All-India Sikh Conference-Babbar had demanded parliamentary and assembly elections in Punjab along with the Lok Sabha poll.

Government Reviewing Issue

BK2803042291 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The government is to take a decision on holding elections in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam next week after reviewing the situation there. In an interview to a news agency the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said that the people of these states should be brought into the mainstream by holding elections. He appealed to the people to create an atmosphere where elections are possible.

The union minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, has meanwhile said that the situation in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir is being reviewed. Any decision regarding elections in these states will be taken in the first week of next month. Addressing a press conference in Ranchi yesterday, he said the final assessment about holding of elections in Assam will be made in the forthcoming meeting of the Northeastern Council in Guwahati on the second of next month.

50 'Militants' Surrender in Punjab

BK2703133691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Fifty militants surrendered before the Punjab governor, General O.P. Malhotra, in the presence of their parents and panchas [headmen] of villages in Amritsar today. Forty-five of them belong to Amritsar District, while five are from Gurdaspur. The youths who surrendered told our Amritsar correspondent that they took the step because of the protection assured to them by the administration. General Malhotra announced grant of immediate relief to the surrendered persons.

Anti-Iraq Demonstration Held at Delhi UN Office

BK2703160691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] A large number of anti-Baghdad protesters belonging to the Majlis-i-Ulema [Muslim Organization] demonstrated outside the UN office in New Delhi today. They were protesting against the alleged use of chemical weapons against the so-called pro-democracy activists.

Chandra Shekhar Hopes USSR Will Remain United

BK2803040691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will remain

united as a powerful nation and will continue to play an important role in world affairs. He was inaugurating the Indo-Soviet journalists association in New Delhi yesterday. Referring to the changes taking place in the Soviet Union, the prime minister said no society can remain in a status quo position and a social change is the call of the time.

Iran

Velayati, Palestinian Official Discuss Gulf

LD2703162891 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 27, IRNA—The recent events in Iraq and Kuwait, had a negative impact on the issue of Palestine and favoured the Zionists, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today. "We had pointed out this in our talks with Iraqi officials, but they did not pay attention," Velayati told Fathi Shafaqi, a leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, calling the Persian Gulf crisis "a disaster for the Palestinian cause." He said before the occupation of Kuwait the intifadah in occupied Palestine topped world issues, but the Iraqi invasion provided the Zionist regime an opportunity to speed up the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, while the eyes of the world was focussed elsewhere.

Describing Palestine as the "most important issue" of the Muslim world, Velayati said Iran will not spare any effort to support the Palestinian people.

Seyyed Baraka, another leader of the Islamic Jihad was also present in the meeting, during which Velayati was informed on the latest developments concerning the Palestinian struggles, as well as the influx of Jews into the occupied land.

UN Envoy Denies Charges of Involvement in Iraq

LD2803095191 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT
28 Mar 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, March 28, IRNA—Iran's Permanent Envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi categorically denied unfounded allegations that Iran is involved in the ongoing unrest in Iraq. He termed the Iraqi charges as an attempt to deviate the world public opinion from brutal killings of the innocent Iraqi people by the Baghdad regime.

In a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Kharrazi termed as "baseless," "irresponsible" and "dangerous" the accusations made against Iran by the Iraqi envoy to the United Nations last Monday.

The letter, circulated as a Security Council document on Wednesday, also said that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had adopted a neutral stand in the Persian Gulf war and explicitly announced that it has no intention to interfere in internal affairs of Iraq. Iran is closely watching the developments in border regions and

fully observing the cease-fire regulations in order to prevent any attempt by suspicious elements to abuse the current situation in Iraq, the letter added.

It also said that during the Persian Gulf war, Iraq on numerous occasions has seriously violated the cease-fire regulations and that the Iranian Government will subsequently inform the international body of the details.

Among the cases of Iraqi cease-fire violations cited in the letter were infiltration into Iranian territory, violation of air space and coastal waters of the Islamic Republic and opening of fire in border regions by Iraqi forces on the Iranian territory.

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD2803081491 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis heading a delegation from his ministry arrived in Tehran Wednesday night and was greeted at Tehran Mehrabad Airport by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ez.

In a brief interview at the airport he said that he is here to strengthen Iran-Italy relations "in the wake of positive developments in their relations because Italy and Europe think very highly of the Islamic Republic of Iran." He added in his meetings with the Iranian officials he would discuss such topics as the status of the Persian Gulf and mutual relations with Iran.

He said in his meeting with the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and with the Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, he would discuss the ways and means for guaranteeing security of the Persian Gulf region and related issues for which Italy would offer initiatives in the future.

De Michelis noted that his visit to Tehran is the second in 15 years, and added that during his stay in Iran he would also visit Isfahan and Persepolis (a historical site in Shiraz).

New Shipping Line Inaugurated With Bahrain

LD2703190291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] The first passenger and cargo shipping service between Iran and Bahrain was inaugurated today.

The Central News Unit reports that with the inauguration of this new shipping service between Bushehr and the Bahraini port of Manama, a passenger and cargo ship will be able to transport 500 tonnes of cargo and 150 passengers on any one journey.

According to the same report, this shipping service is the third between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Kurdish Official Denies Planned Israel Visit

LD2703170691 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 27, IRNA—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Wednesday disclaimed a report by Radio Israel on March 15 that Jalal Talabani was to visit Tel Aviv at the head of a group of militant Iraqi Kurds.

The public relations office of the PUK said on Wednesday that Jalal Talabani has never had any contact with Israel in the past and that he is not the least likely to do so at any future time.

The French service of Radio Israel said in a news dispatch on March 15 that Talebani would visit Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Israeli foreign minister and for seeking help from that country.

Regime's Anti-U.S. Slogans Called 'Lip Service'

NC2803085591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kurdistan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary entitled "Silence Vis-a-Vis the Paper Tiger"]

[Text] By merely taking a quick look at the vociferous and apparently anti-American slogans of the clerical regime's high-ranking officials, without taking into consideration the regime's behavior vis-a-vis America, we might be excused for thinking that the reactionary and inhuman clerics are truly and seriously anti-American. However, use of futile anti-American slogans by the clergy is nothing new. It was started by the political and religious leaders of the regime from its very outset and was occasionally used to mislead simple-minded people.

Phrases such as "The great Satan," and the slogan "America cannot do a damn thing" were coined by Khomeyni and apparently there was no going back on them. And the guardian of the Muslims' cause [Khamene'i] did not want to lag behind his late imam in his anti-Americanism or, at least, wanted to show that he is pursuing Khomeyni's remarks and views. Thus, when the American and multinational forces were deployed in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf crisis, a half-baked decree slipped from his tongue. He described America as a paper tiger which can only (?plan) and nothing more. He also announced that the Islamic regime will not tolerate the continued or temporary presence of the American presence after the end of the Persian Gulf conflict and that if this is America's intention, then it will be slapped in the face by the Islamic Republic.

We do not want to discuss how seriously Khamene'i, who considers himself to be the guardian of the cause of the world's Muslims, took his own decree or how warmly the world Muslims and even our country's Muslims supported it. The point we want to make is that the Persian Gulf war has ended with the results that we see or, at least, it seems to have ended. Nevertheless, we see

that the American forces continue to be in the area and apparently are not in any hurry to leave so as to give peace of mind to His Excellency Khamene'i and to other of the regime's officials. In other words, there are no signs that it intends to leave out of fear of Khamene'i's strong slap. Moreover, America and the multinational forces have made plans for the continued presence of part of their forces in the region.

The question now is: If the paper tiger has prepared itself for Khamene'i's slap and if the fate that God has granted it is that it will be killed by the Islamic Republic and will be buried in the Persian Gulf, when will it receive the slap and when will its grave be dug? Is it possible that God will have mercy on the Muslims and the oppressed of the world and that the clerics and especially Khamene'i will conclude that in order to rid themselves of the great satan and the paper tiger they should resort to the weapon with which Khamene'i has threatened America and which, according to Khamene'i, will annihilate America?

The Muslims and the oppressed of the world believe that by considering the words and threats of the guardian of the Muslims' cause to be irretrievable under any circumstance and that by staying in the region, America has given the clergymen the opportunity to carry out their threats, then the time has come for the guardian of the Muslims' cause to start working and resort to this destructive weapon and rid the Muslims and the oppressed of the world of the great Satan. Even though the tiger is a paper one, it is possible that the guardian of the Muslims' cause will become entangled in the process and will not be able to free himself so easily. Again, we should not rule out that the silence by the guardian of the Muslims' cause vis-a-vis the paper tiger is some sort of preparation or something which will take the enemy by surprise.

At any rate, we are waiting to see how the leader of the world's Muslims will discern interests and which way he will choose to confront the great satan which has recently been shown to be made of paper.

But the truth is that neither America nor even the clerical regime itself take these words, slogans, and abuses seriously. America has realized through experience that the objective of the clerical regime in its lip service to such slogans is not to seriously confront and fight America but that these slogans are only for domestic consumption and aimed to satisfy the ordinary people. [passage omitted]

Press Views Saddam's Moves, U.S. Stance

LD2703132191 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT
27 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 27, IRNA—The editorials in all the four major morning dailies Wednesday commented on the Foreign Ministry denial of the Iraqi allegations that Iranian forces had crossed the ceasefire line with Iraq. They all shared the view that the current developments

inside Iraq were genuine and the natural consequence of the people's plight in that country.

The Persian daily 'ABRAR' said what has emerged in Iraq presently is a direct connection between the Iraqi Government and the nation and indicative of the hardship suffered by the Iraqi people. Under such conditions, the Baghdad government must follow up the wisest political move and make a second thought on categorizing its foes and friends. To attribute the popular protest to the neighbouring countries would only result in further lack of confidence by the people in the Baghdad rulers. The irresponsible comments made by certain Iraqi officials would only slow the current peaceful process going on between the two countries and would tarnish its prospect.

Had the Islamic Republic thought of any military movement on the joint borders with Iraq, it could have exploited the chances it had in the past and not today when the Muslim Iraqi nation is in need of help more than any time else. The Islamic republic feels responsible towards the future of all the world Muslims but does not consider such feelings as interference in the internal affairs of other countries particularly the neighbouring Muslim ones.

The other Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' commented on the "innocence" of the Iraqi nation in their moments of "loneliness". It said that the Arab reaction and the oppressed powers which were once at the service of Saddam today have kept a deadly silence again to serve Saddam and let the "butcher of Baghdad" continue his massacre. It also lashed out at the advocates of human rights, international bodies and the Security Council for being silent today after expressing their bitter wrath at the occupation of Kuwait. The daily argued that if Saddam is a criminal and if the massacre of innocent people should be condemned, this crime of Saddam too should be condemned and immediate, explicit and effective decisions should be taken to put an end to these shivering scenes.

It also referred to the threat of famine in Iraq adding that the danger of the Iraqi nation's total destruction is increasing any moment. "In order to deviate the public opinion, Saddam is trying to draw the attentions to the borders." The daily in conclusion urged the Muslims to save the oppressed Iraqi people from under the claws of the "criminal Saddam."

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said that in conditions that the Iraqi regime is on the brink of complete downfall, resorting to such fabrications is expectable. "Of course this is an old thesis that whenever a ruling system is faced with crisis, it tries to conceal its internal problems by pretending that a foreign threat is endangering its territorial integrity."

"Although this theory may be effective in some cases and for some governments, it would be a big blunder if one considers it true for Iraq under the present circumstances."

This daily too regretted, "the United Nations which had shown such an energetic reaction vis-a-vis military occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, has so far remained idle towards the brutal massacre of innocent Iraqi people by the Baghdad regime." It also regretted that the U.N. intends to deliver foodstuffs and medicines to the Baghdad rulers which it said, "is in fact a kind of support for the Iraqi regime. It should be better done under the supervision of international observers."

The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' believed "One of the reasons why the western world and their Arab allies had to get involved in such a costly confrontation with Iraq was because of their unreasonable fear of the Islamic revolution or the Islamic Republic of Iran. This fear led to the Iraqi-imposed war and later to unconditional support for Baghdad."

"The West, or the Americans in particular, seem to be committing another irreversible blunder, one that will have its own particular or as yet unknown consequences. Once again Saddam is using the Arab and western fear of the Islamic Republic and Islam to dupe them...once again the West has decided to throw its conscious or unconscious weight behind Saddam."

Referring to the tactic that the Iraqi regime has resorted to claiming that Iran is the main culprit behind the popular uprising in Iraq, it said, "It seems the Americans, despite their public and official announcements to the contrary, have bought that line. Otherwise what reason could there be for their stretching and adjusting of the ceasefire provisions to accommodate Saddam?"

"All in all, there seems to be a decided equivocation on the part of Washington as far as the Iraqi regime is concerned. Not long ago they were asking for the overthrow of Saddam. Now that the Iraqis are doing their best to do just that, Washington has had a change of mind due to its illogical fear on Muslims in that country," concluded the daily.

Maldives

Cabinet Reshuffled; Accused Minister Returns

BK2703131291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 27 (AFP)—A powerful minister who fled the Maldives amid a corruption scandal has been brought back into the Cabinet in a reshuffle announced Wednesday by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

A statement by the Maldivian High Commission (Embassy) here said Ilyas Ibrahim was appointed Minister of Atolls Administration in the reshuffle that touched four ministries.

He replaced Abdullah Jameel, who was named minister of tourism.

Mr. Ibrahim, a brother-in-law of Mr. Gayoom, was sacked as state minister for defence and minister of trade and industries after he fled the country in May 1990 amid charges of embezzlement of government funds.

Mr. Gayoom effected a Cabinet reshuffle soon after.

But Mr. Ibrahim, said to be one of the richest men in the Maldives, was allowed to return home in August to face corruption charges at the state trading organisation which he once headed.

Mr. Ibrahim's reappointment to the Cabinet also came a week after the minister who succeeded him at the Trade Ministry, Ahmed Mujuthaba, resigned from the government.

"Mr. Ilyas Ibrahim's return to the Cabinet confirms that he has been cleared of the charges made against him," the High Commission statement said.

In the other new appointments, outgoing Tourism Minister Ismail Shafeeu was named minister of planning and environment, and Attorney-General Ahmed Zahir was appointed minister of transport and shipping.

No new attorney-general or trade and industry minister was announced.

The new Maldives Cabinet following reshuffle Wednesday:

President, Minister of Defence and National Security and Minister of Finance: Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
Minister of Health and Welfare: Abdul Sattar Moosa Didi.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Fathulla Jameel
Minister of Trade and Industries: to be named
Minister of Education: Abdulla Hameed
Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture: Abbas Ibrahim
Minister Without Portfolio: Mohamed Zahir Hussain
Minister of Home Affairs and Sports: Umar Zahir
Minister of Atolls Administration: Ilyas Ibrahim
Minister of Tourism: Abdulla Jameel
Minister of Justice: Mohamed Rasheed
Minister of Public Works and Labour: Abdulla Kamaludeen

Attorney General: to be named
Minister of Planning and Environment: Ismail Shafeeu
Minister of Transport and Shipping: Ahmed Zahir

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Resigns; Interim Replacement Named

BK2703163091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Islamabad, March 27 (AFP)—Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has stepped down as Pakistan's foreign minister after nine years in the post, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Wednesday. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last month announced Mr. Khan's decision not to seek re-election to the Senate when his tenure ended

March 20. Under Pakistani law, only MPs [members of parliament] are eligible for Cabinet positions.

Mr. Sharif has not yet named a new foreign minister but appointed Akram Zaki, until recently ambassador to China, as secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. Fundamentalists in the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance opposed Mr. Khan for what they saw as his pro-American stance. A former lieutenant general, Mr. Khan served as foreign minister for about nine years.

Sindh Chief Minister Comments on Hijacking

*BK2703165691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Karachi, the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, condemned the hijacking of the Singapore Airlines plane and said one of the hijackers Javed Akhter was involved in the hijacking of a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane to Kabul in 1981. Another hijacker Mohammad Yusuf Mughal was an active worker of the Al-Zulfikar Organization.

He said false allegations have been leveled against the present Sindh Government regarding the kidnapping of MPA's [members of provincial assembly]. But it is now crystal clear which group is involved in international terrorism. He said the pressure is designed to get the release of some of those now facing trials in courts. But the government is determined not to show leniency to any criminal.

At a news conference in Islamabad today, the deputy leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Farooq Ahmad Leghari, called for setting up of a judicial commission to probe into the hijacking incident.

Kurdish Refugees Demonstrate Against Saddam

*BK2803005691 Hong Kong AFP in English
1813 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, March 27 (AFP)—Hundreds of Kurdish refugees demonstrated against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in front of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) office here Wednesday, witnesses said.

They also shouted slogans in support of the Kurds fighting for liberation in northern Iraq and dispersed after handing a memorandum to the UNHCR. Nearly 5,000 Iraqi Kurd families fled to Pakistan during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war.

Leaders Congratulate Iran on Islamic Republic Day

*LD2803111691 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT
28 Mar 91*

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—The president and prime minister of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Mohammad Nawaz Sharif sent separate messages of congratulations to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of the Islamic Republic Day on April 1. Both the officials expressed hope for close fraternal ties between the two countries and wished progress and prosperity for the Iranian nation.